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'I am living the dream but there is still a lot more to achieve,' says R Vaishali on her return to Chennai as the new World Championship Challenger, **P 24**

CHEETAHS IN NAMMA B'LURU: Four pairs of the fastest land animal arrived in city from Africa Saturday. They will be moved to special zones for public viewing at Bannerghatta Biological Park after 30-day quarantine | **P 2**

2% DA hike for staff, pensioners: Centre

Cabinet has approved a 2% dearness allowance & dearness relief hike for central employees and pensioners, benefiting 1.19cr people, at a cost of Rs 6,791cr. **P 5**

2 Indian nationals shot dead in Italy

Two Indian Sikh men, Rajinder Singh and Gurmit Singh, both aged 48, were shot dead in Italy's Covo Friday. Witnesses said the shooter was also an Indian. TNN

Strait shut, open, shut: Indian tankers fired at by Iran guards

Iranian Envoy Called In, Told Ships' Safety Crucial To India

Dipak Dash & Sachin Parashar

New Delhi: India-flagged ship Desh Garima, loaded with crude oil, crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday afternoon, while two others — Sanmar Herald and Jag Arnav — were fired at by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) boats while transiting the conflict-hit sea route and turned back. There was no injury to any crew member.

A day after Trump and Tehran declared the Strait of Hormuz open after a ceasefire was agreed to in Israel's war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, Iran's military declared it closed again, as the US said its blockade of Iranian ports would continue till a deal is thrashed out.

Amid continuing talks between Iran and US, the former's top national security body said "new proposals have been put forward by the Americans" during Pak army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir's visit. It, however, added that Iran's negotiators would not offer "even the slightest compromise, retreat or leniency".

India summoned Iran's ambassador Mohammad Fathali on Saturday to express "deep concern" over the firing by Iranian navy. The ministry of external affairs said, in the meeting, foreign secretary Vikram Misri noted the importance that India attaches to safety of merchant shipping and mariners, and recalled that Iran had earlier facilitated safe passage of several ships bound for India.

"Reiterating his concern at this serious incident of firing on merchant ships, the foreign secretary urged the ambassador to convey India's views to the authorities in Iran and resume at the earliest the process of facilitating India-bound ships across the Strait," the ministry said, adding that the ambassador undertook to convey these views.

FULL COVERAGE: P 8, 21

IRAN CANNOT BLACKMAIL US, SAYS TRUMP

- Day after US prez Trump declares Strait of Hormuz completely open, **Iran says route is closed in response to US blockade of its ports**
- Gunboats of Iran's Rev Guards open fire on vessels, say 'control of the **Strait of Hormuz has returned to its previous state**... under control of the armed forces'
- Trump says having **'very good conversation' with Iran**, but also warns latter cannot blackmail the US
- **UN peacekeeper killed and three others wounded** from the French battalion in a deadly attack on UN peacekeepers in **southern Lebanon**. Hezbollah denies any role
- Amid buzz of Iran giving up its enriched uranium to US, head of Russia's state atomic energy company **Rosatom says it is ready to help with removal of enriched uranium from Iran**
- After back-and-forth of messages and remarks, **Pope Leo says it is 'not in my interest at all' to debate Trump** about the Iran war, will continue to preach gospel message of peace

Photo: Reuters

Ships and tankers in Strait of Hormuz, off the coast of Musandam, Oman, on Saturday

Govt approves domestic insurance pool for Indian ships

New Delhi: After discussing it for years, govt Saturday approved the setting up of a domestic insurance mechanism for Indian ships, backed by a sovereign guarantee of Rs 12,980 crore, as part of a strategy to insulate maritime trade from geopolitical risks and volatile global insurance markets.

Govt said the mechanism — Bharat Maritime Insurance pool — will bring down global shipping insurance premiums by at least 25%. More importantly, it will ensure insurance cover when global insurers withdraw due to heightened risk. It also indicates the govt is working to ensure businesses are ready to deal with a prolonged conflict.

The pool will cover all maritime risks, like hull and machinery, cargo, protection and indemnity and war risk. Vessels carrying cargo from any international port to Indian ports and vice versa, even via volatile maritime corridors, will be under its ambit. TNN

▶To shield from risk, P 8

▶10th Indian ship, P 8

Tech check: In terror-scarred town, trust is just a scan away

Tourists Can Verify Cabbies, Others Through QR Code

Ajay Sura & Naseer Ganai | TNN

Pahalgam: "Scan me" is the new trust phrase in this region, which still bears the scars of a terrorist massacre a year ago.

Pahalgam ONE YEAR LATER

In a sweeping move, local police have introduced QR-code-based identification for the thousands who work in this scenic hill town. Pony handlers, taxi drivers, and nomadic communities moving through the surrounding hills are being digitally tagged, each issued a unique QR code that, when scanned via apps, reveals detailed personal information, including name, address, phone number, Aadhaar details, PIN code, and profession.

The initiative comes in the shadow of the Pahalgam attack by Pakistani terrorists that claimed 26 lives, including that of a pony handler who tried to stop the massacre. In its shock-filled aftermath, authorities turned to technology to tighten security and monitor people operating in the region.

Bilal Bahadur

Around 7,000 QR codes have been issued so far after rigorous checks. The aim is to bring 25,000 workers under a single, scannable system

▶Aids livelihood: Union, P 15

HC modifies own order directing FIR on Rahul

Lucknow: The Lucknow bench of Allahabad HC has modified its order in which it had on Friday directed registration of an FIR against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in the alleged dual citizenship case and **acknowledged he should have been given an opportunity to be heard.**

In the order available on HC's website, the bench of Justice Subhash Vidyarthi said during Friday's hearing, the counsel for the petitioner and govts were asked if it was needed to issue notice to respondent No.1 (Rahul). TNN

▶Need opportunity, P 12

Court seeks Sonia's reply in voter list case

A Delhi court has directed CPP chief Sonia Gandhi to file written submissions in a criminal revision petition alleging fraudulent inclusion of her name in poll rolls prior to getting Indian citizenship. **P 12**

Indo-Russia pact on 3,000 troops now operational

India and Russia can now station 3,000 troops, five naval ships and 10 aircraft in each other's territory as part of an agreement that was signed between New Delhi and Moscow in Feb 2025, **reports Surendra Singh.** The deal has been in force since Jan 12 this year, Russia's official legal information portal published on Friday. The law ratifying the agreement was passed by Russia in Dec 2025. **P 14**

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Celebrating Akshaya Tritiya

Bangalore Times

INVESTING TOGETHER

'Meaningful investments go beyond material things'

P12

Kailash announces the launch of latest single

No Scorpions in India

Spotted attraction: 4 cheetahs from Africa at BBP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: India's cheetah conservation narrative received a shot in the arm Saturday as Karnataka joined the national movement to revive the population of cheetahs, once extinct in the country. Four cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus) arrived at Bannerghatta in the early hours of Saturday from South Africa as part of an approved animal exchange programme, marking the beginning of a fresh conservation initiative in Bengaluru.

The two pairs — comprising two males and two females — from Induna Primate and Parrot Park in South Africa were received at the cargo terminal of Kempegowda International Airport by forest minister Eshwar Khandre, along with Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) officials, led by its member secretary Sunil Panwar.

TOI

BIG CAT REVIVAL: Visitors can view the cheetahs at Bannerghatta Biological Park after the mandatory 30-day quarantine period

Khandre said, "Once, cheetahs in Karnataka were locally known as 'Sivangi'. But unfortunately, they vanished because of excessive hunting and habitat degradation over the years. Bringing them back and assisting in their adaptation to our ecosystem is indeed a significant feat. Their presence in Bengaluru will offer visitors a rare opportunity to see a species that had long disappeared from India but is slowly reclaiming a place in our conservation landscape."

The successful import followed extensive health screening and an initial quarantine in South Africa, along with regulatory clearances under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and approvals from animal quarantine authorities in India.

The minister said all four cheetahs will be moved to specially prepared enclosures for public viewing at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) after the mandatory 30-day quarantine period. He instructed BBP veterinarians and forest officials to ensure stringent quarantine and health monitoring, and prescribed dietary protocols during the acclimatisation period.

ZAK officials said the move complements India's wider efforts by promoting public awareness, supporting scientific research and contributing to the genetic management of captive populations. "The park is already known for housing a wide range of native and exotic species, and the addition of cheetahs enhances its profile as a major zoological institution and strengthens its role in ex-situ conservation at the national level," said a ZAK official.

No gold rush this yr? Bookings drop ahead of Akshaya Tritiya

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Even though gold prices have eased from recent highs, demand in the run-up to Akshaya Tritiya (which falls on Sunday) remained subdued in the city, with jewellers reporting a 25% drop in bookings as buyers held back amid volatility and global uncertainty due to the West Asia conflict.

After rising sharply to nearly Rs 15,000 per gram from last year's Rs 7,500–Rs 8,000 range, gold prices have seen some correction. However, jewellers say the dip has not translated into higher demand, with many consumers expecting further softening.

Sharavana TA, president of Karnataka Jewellery Association, said, "Compared to previous years, gold rates have increased significantly. Last year, gold was around Rs 7,500-Rs 8,000 per gram, but now it is nearly Rs 15,000 per gram. Silver has also moved from about Rs 100 to Rs 250 per gram. The prices fluctuate a lot — when they increase, they go very high, and when they decrease, they fall sharply."

He added that customers are monitoring the progress of the war, as global conflicts are influencing gold rates. "Usually, many book items a month in advance. This time, due to high prices, lightweight jewellery is in demand. We are planning one-gram gold coins and five-gram silver coins minimum. Temple and antique jewellery are also seeing more demand. Overall, bookings are down by around 25%," Sharavana said.

Surendra Mehta, national secretary, India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd, said: "Traders are not optimistic, and there is no uptake in sales despite gold prices moving both ways, linked to the uncertainty."

However, bigger stores are expecting strong sales. According to Dinesh Pagariya, managing director of JJJ Jewellers Pvt Ltd, sales are expected to go up by 20%. "Prices have come down by 10% now, which is a golden opportunity for many. Most customers are looking for jewellery rather than gold bars and coins," Pagariya said.

—**Jia Khosla, Nyasa Gupta**

DECODING THE DIGITAL GOLD TREND

Digital gold is becoming increasingly popular, mainly because it is convenient and allows people to invest in small amounts. This trend is particularly visible among younger consumers, more inclined towards digital platforms and prefer the ease of investing without physically visiting stores.

Vaibhav Joshi, a second-year BA student, said: "I invest my leftover pocket money each month in digital gold because I feel it is a safe way for my money to grow."

However, jewellers remain unsure about its long-term impact. A gold store owner said: "Digital gold may be convenient, but it comes with platform charges and limited resale margins. Meanwhile, physical gold can be sold at market rates and offers greater security."

Access matters: Siddaramaiah flags gaps, seeks SC bench in South India

Warns Against Dependence On AI In Judiciary

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Seeking greater accessibility to the apex court, chief minister Siddaramaiah sought a Supreme Court bench in South India.

At the 22nd biennial state-level conference of judicial officers Saturday, he said: "There is a strong and compelling need to improve accessibility to the highest court of the land. The establishment of an SC bench in South India would go a long way in ensuring justice."

While calls for an SC bench in one of the South Indian states have been made several times (especially by the neighbouring Tamil Nadu) in the past decade, this is the first time a Karnataka CM has raised the issue. Siddaramaiah pointed to the pendency of cases and said: "It is a serious concern that affects timely delivery of justice. While technology can provide tools to address this, it must be complemented by systemic reforms through strengthening infrastructure, increasing judicial capacity, and modernising court processes."

He also highlighted the challenges associated with artificial intelligence in judiciary. While pointing out that AI might help in faster case disposal through rapid legal research and improved management systems, he also shared concerns over its independence. "Algorithmic bias can undermine the guarantee of equality before the law. Opaque systems may weaken the doctrine of reasoned decisions, which lies at the heart of our judicial process," he said, emphasising that there is a need to preserve judicial independence.

PTI

TALKING LAW & MORE: Chief minister Siddaramaiah and Chief Justice of India Surya Kant during the 22nd biennial state-level conference of judicial officers in Bengaluru Saturday

WHAT SC BENCH DOWN SOUTH CAN DO

- Reduce financial burden on litigants who currently have to travel to Delhi for SC proceedings, incurring high costs for flights, accommodation, and legal representation by advocates on appearance basis
- Enable litigants to continue with the same counsel who handled their case in lower courts, ensuring better case continuity and understanding, instead of engaging new SC lawyers unfamiliar with the matter
- Improve access to justice by making Supreme Court more reachable for ordinary citizens, not just those who can afford expensive legal proceedings in Delhi
- Bring down pendency of cases by facilitating quicker hearings and disposal through a regional bench

Time for introspection

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, who addressed the gathering later, reiterated Siddaramaiah's concerns, stating that the time to pause and introspect has arrived for Indian Judiciary.

"The challenges we confront and the possibilities we explore are shared across the judicial landscape of the country," he said.

Praising Karnataka for its institutional dynamism and openness to innovation, he said the state could emerge as a guiding force for technological adaptations: "What emerges from these deliberations has the potential to inform and shape judicial practices across the country."

He also warned judicial officers in the state to be attentive to the realities that shape the disputes before them. "It is this combination of legal understanding, human sensitivity, and institutional discipline that defines the true character of judicial functioning... An over-reliance on AI tools risks reducing this nuanced exercise (judgment) into a mechanical output, thereby diluting the depth, independence, and integrity of judicial reasoning," he said.

Clean energy should not become a privilege: CJI

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Bengaluru: In his inaugural address at 'Sustainable Energy: An Agenda for India@2047', a conference organised by the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) here Saturday, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said, "The only defensible development is one that is environmentally responsible."

"India's vision for 2047 must synchronise economic growth with ecological sensibility," he said, describing energy justice as the "moral architecture" of India's future. Rejecting the idea that the concept is imported, he said it is rooted in India's constitutional framework and safeguards "clean air, clean water, and a liveable future."

Highlighting Article 21 as the constitutional basis for balancing growth and ecology, he said India's energy transition must rest on four pillars — affordability, accessibility, equity, and inclusion. "Clean energy must not become a privilege for the few," he said, cautioning that the costs of transition should not disproportionately burden marginalised communities.

Emphasising the judiciary's evolving environmental approach, the CJI said courts have moved beyond the traditional "polluter pays" doctrine.

"We no longer just say, if you pollute, you will pay. The question we now ask is far more demanding: have you done everything reasonably possible to avoid polluting in the first place? Our task is to move from a purely reactive model to one that integrates environmental protection into the very design of development — not as an afterthought, but as a foundation," he said.

Karnataka Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru said, "Energy justice means energy must be accessible, affordable and sustainable. In India, the clean energy transition must not deepen inequalities or marginalise vulnerable communities."

The two-day conference is expected to culminate in the Bengaluru Declaration on Sustainable Energy and Energy Justice, envisioned as a roadmap for India's energy security, climate action and sustainable development goals.

With KCET days away, experts stress mock tests, prep strategy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: With just days left for Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) 2026, experts emphasised the importance of strategic preparation, revision, and time management over last-minute cramming, during KCET Prep Master 2026, a webinar held Saturday.

The webinar, hosted by Presidency University in collaboration with The Times of India and Vijay Karnataka, brought together officials from Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) and academic experts. **Islauddin Gadyal**, administrative officer at KEA, said the exam is not merely a test of knowledge but also of discipline, perseverance, and clarity of purpose. "KCET opens doors to some of the finest institutions. Success is not defined solely by rank, but by your ability to think critically and stay consistent," he said.

He urged students to rely primarily on NCERT and PU textbooks and recommended complete syllabus coverage, rather than selective study. He also recommended solving at least 10 years of previous question papers, noting that 20-40% of questions tend to follow repetition trends. With limited time remaining, he said mock tests and revision should be prioritised.

On exam strategy, Gadyal underscored the need for effective time management. "With 80 minutes per paper and 60 questions, students should aim to spend about a minute per question after accounting for time spent filling OMR details. Accuracy plus speed equals rank," he said, advising a "skip and run" approach — attempting easier questions first and returning to tougher ones later.

Milind S Chippalkatti, national head of academics at Deeksha Learning, Bengaluru, said, "At this juncture, I would like to advise students not to enter a new mode of study. If certain topics haven't been covered so far, then don't attempt them now. This is the time to strengthen what they know."

Robin Rohit Vincent, professor and head at Nvidia Centre of Excellence, Presidency School of Computer Science and Engineering, said, "Think of your brain as a smartphone — if you try to download a massive data set into a low-battery phone, it will crash. So, focus strictly on revision and optimise what you already know," he said.

TEST YOURSELF

Panellists urged students to move beyond ideal study environments and train under less-than-perfect conditions. Instead of always taking mock tests in quiet settings, they said students should practise in spaces with minor distractions. The CET Prepmaster Mock Test is scheduled on April 20 from 11am to 4pm. Registrations on till midnight on April 19 (www.cetprepmaster.in).

Cop accused of con: Man claims family gold gone

Bengaluru: In a case of alleged betrayal, a policeman has been accused of cheating his friend of gold ornaments worth lakhs. Niranjan, 37, a recording studio owner from Chamarajpet, has accused his college friend Upendra Kumar, a DAR constable in Mandya, of misusing their friendship to carry out the fraud.

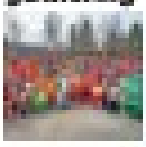
In Nov 2025, Upendra allegedly told Niranjan he needed a car and a gold chain for his brother's wedding at a resort, promising they would be returned the same night. As his car was under service, Niranjan gave him only a gold chain. Upendra took it but failed to return it. He later avoided Niranjan and eventually claimed he had pawned the chain at a finance company. When Niranjan said the chain belonged to his younger brother and had to be returned, Upendra allegedly asked him to pledge other jewellery to retrieve it. Niranjan said he pawned family gold — about 49 grams, including his wife's chains, children's bangles, rings, and earrings — to recover the original chain. However, Upendra has not helped him retrieve the pledged jewellery.

Chamarajpet police have registered a case under BNS Section 318 (cheating). TNN

Yulu claims 1bn km of rides in B'luru

Bengaluru: Yulu said Friday it has crossed 1 billion ride kilometres in Bengaluru with a fleet of 22,500 shared EVs. Yulu co-founder and CEO Amit Gupta said the firm plans to expand to 35,000-40,000 vehicles to support 20 million monthly deliveries. The firm claimed it had powered 190 million deliveries, thereby eliminating 27 million kg of CO_2 emissions. Bengaluru is Yulu's largest market, alongside Mumbai, Delhi & Hyderabad. TNN

Canada unleashes record for largest dinosaur gathering



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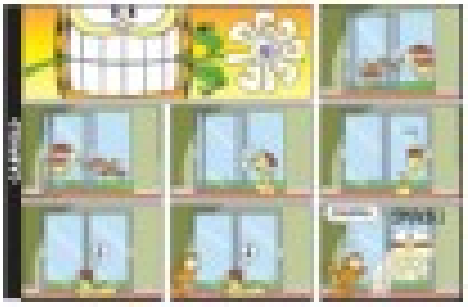
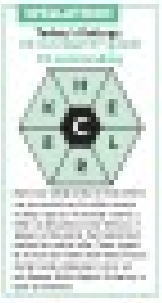
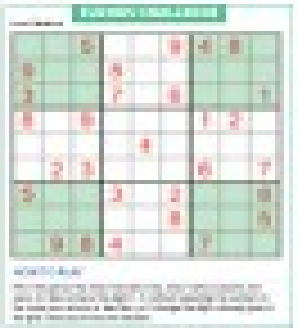
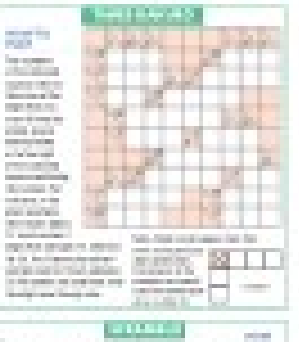
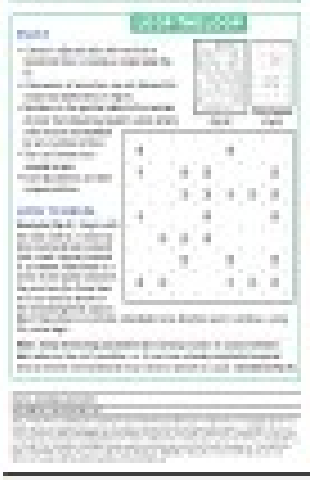
Earthy hues for calm interiors











Every drop counts: Lack of guidelines stalls BWSSB's push for treated water

BAF & BWSSB Signed Pact To Promote Reuse

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Bengaluru: The hotter summer this year, and the forecast of a below-normal monsoon in Karnataka, has led Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to revive its push for use of treated water.

In April 2024, BWSSB signed a pact with Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) to promote reuse and sale of treated water. There was no progress at the time, with officials attributing it to the lack of demand.

Now, BWSSB and BAF are planning to ask data centres and the construction industry to use treated water. "We will hold a meeting next week with apartment associations and data centres to chart a course of action on using treated water, so that their needs can be met without putting more pressure on freshwater sources. Apartments are ready for this, and we will soon take this forward," BWSSB chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said.

Usually, apartment complexes are allowed to sell surplus treated water at Rs 8 per kilolitre, with BWSSB buying it at Rs 10 but retaining Rs 2 as service charge.

However, neither a functional supply network nor a dedicated fleet of tankers has been created to move this treated water from apartment STPs to industries, parks, or construction sites that could use it.

From the time the mandatory STP rule came into force, surplus treated water in apartment complexes continues to go to waste.

Enough To Meet Needs

According to BAF's estimates, decentralised STPs in city's apartment complexes produce about 300 million litres per day (MLD) of treated used water, and another 400 MLD is available from BWSSB STPs.

Pic for representation

According to BAF's estimate, citywide demand for treated water can be met by the STPs in apartment complexes and those under BWSSB

The estimated citywide demand for treated water is substantial—150 MLD for flushing and landscaping, 100 MLD for industrial operations, 300 MLD for construction industry, and 100 MLD for cooling systems in data centres and tech parks. However, this demand can be met by the STPs in apartment complexes and those under BWSSB.

'Govt Needs To Lead'

K Arun Kumar, BAF's general secretary, said, "Revenue is secondary; the focus is on water reuse. Nearly 50% of supplied water (to apartment complexes) is treated, and we are exploring its uses in parks and beyond. However, we need a clear, govt-approved framework as not a litre has been lifted so far (by govt). They (govt) made the rules on mandatory STPs, so they should solve the problems as well. There is buyer interest but due to lack of guidelines and infrastructure, we are unable to proceed. Developers have raised concerns over standards and certifications. In the past four months, we've held five to six meetings on this."

T Kamala, president of Adarsh Rhythm Apartments on Bannerghatta Road, said, "We generate about 170 lakh litres of treated water, of which nearly half is used for landscaping and maintenance, while the rest goes to waste. Our STP meets all norms, and we're ready to supply the surplus, with pipelines laid up to the gate. Though we tied up with nearby apartments, tanker transport remains a hurdle. We need govt support."

Builders are open to using treated water but stressed the need for quality norms and certification. Bhaskar T Nagendrappa, president of CREDAI Karnataka, said, "There needs to be clarity from the govt on cost, quality, and supply chain. We need standards such as BIS norms to ensure quality."

BAF president Satish Malya further added, "BWSSB can at least lay pipelines or arrange other ways for apartments to send their treated water to nearby parks or grounds. We have reached out multiple times to officials, but nothing has materialised so far."

Man posing as IAS officer runs hospital for 3 months, held

Ranjith Kandya | TNN

A man from Chikkamagaluru was arrested by Bengaluru police Friday for allegedly impersonating an IAS officer and exercising control over a district hospital for nearly three months.

The accused, Mithun, 28, posed as a commissioner under the National Health Mission (NHM). Photographs showing him presiding over meetings with senior doctors, nurses, and other personnel have gone viral.

The accused allegedly cheated a medical shop owner of Rs 41 lakh by promising a govt contract to supply medicines to primary health centres.

The incident has triggered a political row, with opposition BJP staging protests and accusing the district administration of negligence. Meanwhile, Sangeetha Prasad of LISA Foundation has called for an FIR against govt doctors and other officials suspected of colluding with the impersonator.

GBA polls: Nearly 90L voters on final list

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The final electoral roll for upcoming elections to 5 city corporations under GBA has pegged the electorate at around 88.9 lakh voters, setting the stage for elections in 369 wards across the city.

From the previous draft list published on March 9, which stood at 88.9 lakh voters, the count has increased by 2,833 voters in the final list published Saturday.

The revision process, which began in early Jan, included multiple stages, from draft publication and inviting objections twice to final corrections, to eliminate duplication or errors in the rolls.

Subramanyapura ward of south city corporation has the highest number at 53,660 voters, while Vijayanagar ward continues to have the fewest voters at 12,897.

Election machinery will now shift focus to poll scheduling and logistics. Citizens have been encouraged to verify their details, through the official gba.karnataka.gov.in/home website or designated help centres. Authorities have also enabled ward-level access to voter lists.

Maheshwar Rao, chief election officer, said, "If there are any mapping issues within wards, we will rectify them accordingly."

STAGE SET FOR ELECTIONS IN 369 WARDS

Corporation	Wards	Polling Stations	Male	Female	Others	Total
B'luru Central	63	1,303	726,476	698,967	303	1,425,746
B'luru North	72	1,708	994,421	959,702	381	1,954,504
B'luru South	72	1,611	903,402	841,097	225	1,744,724
B'luru East	50	920	549,200	491,996	258	1,041,454
B'luru West	112	2,481	1,397,670	1,330,795	468	2,728,933
TOTAL	369	8,023	4,571,169	4,322,557	1,635	8,895,361

Source: GBA

Experts call for dedicated dept for study on mental-health apps

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Mental health experts emphasised the need for a full-fledged department or centre for applied research on digital mental health applications at a three-day meeting convened at Nimhans.

The meeting on Digital Technologies for Mental Health: Evolving Policy and Regulatory Recommendations for Safe Use, was convened by Nimhans-ICMR Centre for Advanced Research (CAR) on Digital Interventions for Mental Health Care in collaboration with SHUT Unit at Nimhans.

One of the recommendations made by the CAR was a dedicated department/centre to generate implementation-focused evidence and support the integration of digital tools into training and care through public-private collaboration, while also focusing on real-world effectiveness, user safety and responsible use.

Dr Mohan Isaac, clinical professor of psychiatry at University of Western Australia, said, "I strongly hope the govt takes this forward."

Dr Prabha S Chandra, director of Nimhans, said, other aspects of the digital mental health ecosystem also had to be addressed. "I would urge CAR to treat this as one in a series of consultations, with each area requiring separate attention and recommendations in the context of mental health," she said.

Unsafe supplement use can put liver at risk: Docs

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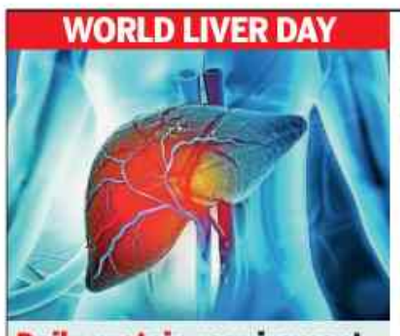
Bengaluru: Doctors are raising concerns over a growing number of liver injury cases linked to the misuse of protein supplements and wellness products. The spike, they say, has become more noticeable in the post-Covid years, as more people turn to powders, boosters, and over-the-counter formulations without medical guidance.

They note the issue is not protein per se, but the way it is being consumed—often in excess and without medical supervision. "There is a rise in what is known as drug-induced liver injury secondary to complementary and alternative medications. Nowadays people are overenthusiastic about consuming protein supplements, immunity boosters and products for weight loss or gain. Many of these are unauthorised, and in any form, they can cause injury to the liver. The liver is a metabolic mill; it handles everything we eat, and so it is the first organ to be affected," said Dr Vijay Kumar HJ, senior consultant, medical gastroenterology, hepatology & interventional endoscopy, KIMS Hospital.

Hepatologists added fears around protein itself are often exaggerated when intake is within recommended limits. "Rising liver issues are not directly linked to protein supplements in most people, and the concern is often overstated when supplements are used in the right amount and from good-quality sources. Current medical evidence shows high-protein diets and protein supplements are generally safe for liver function in healthy individuals when taken in moderate amounts," said Dr Sonal Asthana, lead consultant, HPB & liver transplant surgery, Aster CMI Hospital.

A key concern flagged by doctors is supplement quality. "In clinical practice, it is rare for otherwise healthy people to develop liver damage purely due to protein intake. However, we do come across situations where liver dysfunction is exacerbated by uncontrolled or contaminated supplements. Many over-the-counter products may contain unreported ingredients such as heavy metals, herbal additives or even anabolic steroids, which can stress the liver," said Dr Pradeep Krishna RV, senior consultant in the department of HPB surgery and liver transplantation, Apollo Hospitals. Those with pre-existing liver issues like non-alcoholic fatty liver disease or hepatitis are particularly vulnerable.

WORLD LIVER DAY



Daily protein requirement
Sedentary adults: 0.8–1g per kg body weight
Moderately active individuals: 1–1.2g per kg
Active/gym-goers: 1.2–1.6g per kg
Athletes (high intensity): up to 2g per kg

Doctors also flagged low awareness among consumers, noting that many people do not read ingredient lists, check for certifications, or verify supplement quality, and are often influenced by advertisements or celebrity endorsements

"A balanced diet made up of natural, whole-food sources is the safest way to achieve daily protein requirements. Foods such as beans, lentils, dairy products, eggs, lean meats, fish, nuts, and seeds provide high-quality protein along with essential nutrients

Dr Vijay Kumar HJ | SENIOR CONSULTANT, MEDICAL GASTROENTEROLOGY, HEPATOLOGY & INTERVENTIONAL ENDOSCOPY, KIMS HOSPITAL

Homemaker kidnaps sister & spouse over ₹9.5L loan dispute

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A 31-year-old homemaker, her husband and their associate have been arrested on charges of kidnapping the homemaker's younger sister and her husband over a monetary fight and locking them inside a house.

Based on the complaint filed by victim Pruthvi, a resident of Dhruvadhama residential layout in Electronics City, Hebbagodi police arrested her elder sister, Prafulla S, her husband Saleem Sheik and their associate identified as Beeresh on charges of kidnapping, assault and illegal detention.

According to Pruthvi, she took a handloan of Rs 9.5 lakh sometime back, on interest. "I was paying a monthly instalment of Rs 75,000. Till June last year, I repaid a total of Rs 2.7 lakh. Since I had some difficulties, I requested my brother-in-law (Saleem Sheik) to give some time. However, my sister and Sheik shouted at us for not paying the remaining due. Accordingly, I paid Rs 2.5 lakh more in a few more monthly instalments. I requested Sheik to give us time till this June end to repay the remaining amount," Pruthvi said.

LOCKED IN HOUSE

According to Pruthvi, her sister visited her house in the wee hours of April 15. "Prafulla, Sheik and Beeresh hit me and my husband Abhijeet and issued dire threats for non-payment. They expressed dismay over my police complaint I made in June last year, saying Prafulla and Sheik were harassing me. They also threatened, stating that they have men who can kill for just Rs 500," Pruthvi said.

Bundling Pruthvi and Abhijeet into their car, the accused reached Sheik's Nagarabhavi house. Here, Pruthvi and Abhijeet were locked up and threatened again. Finally, the couple were let off with a warning, stating they should not go to police or tell anyone about the incident. "Pruthvi filed a zero FIR (registering complaint anywhere) with Chandra Layout police and it was transferred to us. Immediately, we arrested the three accused persons," an investigating officer said.

NCB destroys 129kg of drugs

Bengaluru: Sleuths from Narcotics Control Bureau-Bengaluru zone destroyed more than 129kg of drugs, including ganja, cocaine, MDMA and charas, Friday.

The seized drugs, with a market value of around Rs 38 crore, were destroyed at a refinery in Hoskote, in the presence of the drug disposal committee. "This is the second drug disposal carried out this year. On Feb 5, we destroyed 1,607kg of drugs worth over Rs 49 crore," an official said. TNN

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Schools	Toppers	Schools	Toppers
515 Army Base Workshop High School	V Vergil Celshiya & Noorunnisa Baig	Endeavour Academy	Vandhya Shree S
AECS Magnolia Maaruti Public School	Aarush Anand	Euro School, Bannerghatta	Amogh P Biradar
Airaa Academy	Deepa Kuve, Anmol Nag, Sana K, TD Sampath Kumar	Euro School, Chimney Hills	Davanashree Raghavendra
Air Force School, ASTE	Pranshu Kaushik	Euro School, Yelahanka	Krivi Lokesh Rahangdale
Air Force School, Hebbal	Pratiksha Ramesh Vharambale	Euro School, Whitefield	Hardhik Manjunatha Chatram & Parinita Pillarisetty
Air Force School, Jalahalli East	Panache Agarwal	First Steps School	Mia Narayan
Air Force School, Yelahanka	Khusbhu	Freedom International School	Kanieshk Harishankar
Alpine Public School, Konanakunte	Prisha Chandrahas Hukkeri	Gangothri International Public School, Sunkadakatte	Sukruta KS
Amara Jyothi Public School, KR Pura	Meera V Iyer	GEAR Innovative International School	Charishma Maddukuri & Saranya Varada
Anand Shiksha Kendra	Bhavyam Periwal	Geethanjali Vidyalaya	Lakhyahira Chetia
Army Public School, KK Road	PS Bargav Yajvan	Genius Global School, Marathahalli	Prithviraj Panigrahy
Army Public School, KK Road	Aadhya Singh	Giridhanva School	Bhuvan V Nayak
Army Public School, PRTC	Surya Pratap Singh	GJR International, Kundanahalli Gate	Lasya EGA
BGS International Residential School, Kumbalgodu	Manyatha M Gowda	Global Academy for Learning, R R Nagar	Kritika V
BGS National Public School, Bannerghatta	Bhargavi Poddar	Global City International School CBSE	Shubh Mallick
Bhavan Bangalore Press School, Chamarajpet	Kiran Kumar M	Global Indian International School, Whitefield campus	Ila Rajiv Nair
Birla Open Minds International School	Suha Afia Shaik	Greenfield Public School, Jakkur	Shaurya Shekar & Ahan Ashish Uplap
Bunts Sangha RNS Vidyaniketan	Shamitha SM	Gurukul High-Mount Litera Zee School	Yashaswini H
BVM Global School	Ashwath Venugopal	HAL Public School, HAL Airport Road	Rudra Narayan
Cambridge English School, Yelahanka	Chris Angel J	Harvest International School Innovation Campus	Sanehal Arora
Capital Public School, KR Pura	Subisha N	Harvest International School, Kodathi	Abhipsa Shastri, Aum Shelat & Siddharth Chandra Kanikaram
Capitol Public School, Jakkur	Nikhil Kuppachi	Hill Rock National Public School	Sanika R
Capstone High, Hoskote	Siddharth Anand Reganti	Jain Global School, Bangarpet	Druva M Reddy
Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Banashankari	Swashika Subhash	Jain Heritage School, Hebbal	Vivaan Agarwal
Christ International School, KR Pura	Meghraj B Dabagondi & Mouneshwari K	Jnana Vijnana Vidyapeeta	Prajith Raj
Chrysalis High School, Bannerghatta	Shivakumari	JSS Public School, HBR Layout	Adarsh Krishna J
Chrysalis High School, Kadugodi	Saideep Nadella	Jubilee National Public School, JP Nagar	Sudeeksha
Chrysalis High School, Yelahanka	Sanvi Ladha	Kendriya Vidyalaya, Malleswaram	Sanjana & Snehil Shardul
Chrysalis High School, Horamavu	Mohith M	Kairalee Nilayam Central School	Ridha Fathima
Daffodils Foundation for Learning	Aparajitha R	Karnataka Public School	Chandu Reddy
Dayananda Arya Vidya Public School	Adarsh S P	Kensri School, Mariyannapalya	Dhanush Kothapalli
Deens Academy, Gunjur campus	Advait Pradeep	Kesar The International School	Chandana P & Vidyashree N
Delhi Public International School, Hesaraghatta	Rachit Siparia	KMV Red Hills Senior Secondary School, Chikkabanavara	Saanvi K
Delhi Public School, Bangalore West, Dasanapura	Sreeja Menon	Lake Montfort School, Virgonagar	Stevan Itty Varghese
Delhi Public School, Bangalore East	R Kanishka & Krishang Tekariwal	Leaders International School	Pratik Singh
Delhi Public School, Electronics City	Satvik Madhukar	M S V Public School, Doddabalapur	Shreya R
Delhi Public School, North	Keshav Sinha	Maruthi Vidya Mandir, Alur Duddanahalli	Sinchana K N
Delhi Public School, South	Sanyukta Singh	Maruthi Vidya Mandir, Kannamangala	Shaik Farhan Basha
Delhi Public School, Whitefield	Dinnepu Veda Srishti	MEGA International School	Bhavishya Javangula
Dev In National School, Sahakarnagar	Ayush Joshi	Mother Theresa Public School, Jalahalli	Krishnamaneni Vashist Chandra
Diya Academy for Learning	Shreya Nanda	Mount Litera Zee School, East	Ameya Sunil
Edify School	Tanisha Mahapatra		

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CM blames Centre for linking women's quota to delimitation

Congress Betrayed Women: BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chief minister **Siddaramaiah** said Saturday that Congress did not oppose women's reservation, but blamed the Centre for linking it with constituency delimitation.

In a statement, he said the Women's Reservation Bill could have been passed if it had been introduced independently. "Linking it with constituency delimitation led to its failure," he said, accusing the Union govt of politicising the issue.

The CM noted that the bill was cleared in the Lok Sabha in 2023 after a constitutional amendment, but said combining it with delimitation could have made its implementation difficult.

BJP functionaries criticised Congress for the failure of the reservation bill, alleging it reflected an "anti-women stance".

Leader of opposition in the assembly, R Ashoka, said blocking the bill amounted to a "betrayal of crores of women" and claimed people would teach a lesson to the party in elections. He described the development as a political conspiracy, negligence and a clear anti-women attitude.

He added that Congress crushed the dreams of women aspiring to enter Parliament and assemblies as it believed "free schemes are enough" instead of political representation.

Legislative council's opposition leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy termed the outcome a betrayal of 50% of the population, stating financial assistance alone "does not amount to empowerment."

Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa said opposing reservation "goes against the principle of equality" and that political representation is a "right of women".

Meanwhile, BJP Mahila Morcha state president CS Manjula announced statewide protests. She said planned celebrations had "turned into anger" and that protests across Mysuru, Gadag, Nelamangala, Kolar and Bengaluru would continue indefinitely.

"This agitation will go on until the Congress is removed from power," she said, adding that the party's "anti-women stance... will be exposed."

Dark chapter repeats itself: HDK

Union minister HD Kumaraswamy launched a sharp attack on Congress, saying a "30-year old dark chapter has repeated itself" and Congress' "anti-women mindset" has not changed.

Recalling developments in 1996, he said in a statement that the then United Front govt led by HD Deve Gowda had taken a decision to provide 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. "Back then, Congress and its allies had collectively defeated that effort. Today, prime minister Narendra Modi had taken a bold step to correct the historic injustice done to women. Once again, the same Congress and its allies have obstructed his efforts," he alleged.

Kumaraswamy said those responsible for defeating the bill would never be forgiven by the women of the nation. Calling it an "insult to womanhood," he said those responsible would face consequences. "Under the leadership of Narendra Modi, you (women) will receive due recognition one day. Achieving the goal of 33% reservation for women is certain." TNN

Court reserves sentencing in cooker bomb blast case

Bengaluru: A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court here Saturday reserved order on the sentencing of Mohammed Shariq, prime accused in the 2022 Mangaluru cooker bomb blast case, to April 25.

Shariq is currently in judicial custody in Bengaluru central prison. "In April 2024, he claimed innocence before the agency and the court. However, in Dec 2025, he submitted a guilty plea under Section 229 of CrPC. The special court accepted this confession on March 26 and, after hearing final arguments, has now scheduled the final order for late April," a source said.

On Nov 19, 2022, an improvised explosive device (IED) concealed inside a pressure cooker exploded in a moving autorickshaw in Mangaluru. The device exploded prematurely due to an erroneous timer, said NIA in its chargesheet. TNN

HC bins Kolar MLA's appeal in false caste certificate case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The court rejected the contention that a judgment should be set aside on the ground that it is delayed. It granted liberty to govt to take action against the MLA

Bengaluru: In a big setback for G Manjunatha, presently Congress MLA from Kolar constituency, a division bench of the Karnataka high court has dismissed his writ appeal in relation to a false caste certificate case.

The division bench has also granted liberty to state govt to take suitable action against him for submitting a false caste certificate.

On Dec 20, 2023, a single bench dismissed his petition challenging the report of the district caste verification committee (DCVC) dated Oct 27, 2021, seeking consequential direction to confirm the caste certificate issued to him by the competent authority on April 3, 2012, as belonging to Budaga Jangama caste under SC category, as legal and valid.

"There is no dispute that the appellant applied for a caste certificate in 2008, which was rejected. The appellant's appeal against the said decision was also rejected. Notwithstanding the same, the appellant has produced another caste certificate dated April 3, 2012, purportedly issued in pursuance of his application in 2012. However, the tahsildar issued an endorsement clearly stating that the caste certificate was issued by misusing the computer at the tahsildar's office and that there is no record of its issuance. As rightly observed by the single bench, it is open for the state to consider initiating appropriate proceedings in this regard," a division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha observed.

Manjunatha has claimed though the evidence established that he belonged to the Budaga Jangama caste under SC category, the same was not considered.

He further claimed the single bench delayed in delivering the judgment, ie, kept it pending for eight months after reserving the same.

However, the division bench of the HC observed that they are not agreeable to the contention that a judgment has to be set aside on the ground that it was delivered after a period of eight months of the order being reserved for judgment.

The DCVC considered the fact that the appellant's caste was recorded as 'Byragi' (coming under BC category) in the school records. According to the appellant, his parents erroneously stated their caste is 'Byragi'.

However, the DCVC did not accept the contention.

Efforts on to get funds: Officials

▶ Continued from page 1

While some employees received their salaries around April 9-10, a large number are still awaiting payment.

Sources within departments attribute the delay to a combination of technical glitches and financial constraints. The delay has stretched beyond the usual lag seen at the end of a financial year. "Usually after the financial year ends, there is a delay of one or two weeks. This three-weeks' delay is unprecedented," said an education department official.

Allegations have also surfaced suggesting that funds were diverted to the Gruhalakshmi scheme ahead of the Davanagere South and Bagalkot bypolls. The govt is said to have diverted about Rs 6,000 crore as payment was due for about three months.

Finance department principal secretary dismissed claims that salary funds are diverted to Gruhalakshmi scheme

Officials in the treasury department said efforts are under way to arrange funds and expressed hope that pending salaries would be disbursed by Monday. However, uncertainty persists for many of the state's estimated 6.4 lakh employees.

Teachers say the delay has disrupted household finances at a crucial time of the year.

An employee from the stamps and registration department said their department was yet to receive funds required to disburse salaries, indicating gaps in allocation and release of grants.

While C S Shadakshari, president of the Karnataka State Government Employees' Association, described such delays in April as not uncommon and largely technical, another association member reported widespread complaints, particularly from teachers.

However, Ritesh Kumar Singh, principal secretary, state finance department, dismissed claims of salary funds being diverted to the Gruhalakshmi scheme. "In some departments DDOs (drawing and disbursing officers) are a little laidback. Salary disbursement is delegated to the department heads. There is no reason why a govt official will not get his salary," he added.

Activist-writer G Ananth dies

Mysuru: Activist, writer and thinker G Ananthapadmanabhan, popularly known as Ananth, passed away in the early hours of Saturday at his residence in Yadavagiri, Mysuru. He was 65.

He is survived by his wife, activist Kavita Kuruganti, and a daughter.

An alumnus of IIT Madras, where he completed a BTech in electrical engineering, Ananth began his career as a teacher at The School, Krishnamurti Foundation. He later served as CEO of Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, CEO of Amnesty International India, and international programme director at Greenpeace. His cremation was held at the Gokulam crematorium.

Activist Yogendra Yadav said Ananth was one of the most gifted minds. TNN

From 73% to 86%: Minister says planned intervention drove PU result turnaround

ManuAiyappa.Kanathanda
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka's jump to a record 86.4% pass percentage in II PU exam-1 this year follows a series of tightly coordinated interventions by the state primary and secondary education department under minister **Madhu Bangarappa**, with officials pointing to structural changes rather than a one-time surge.

Calling it a result of "planned academic intervention," Bangarappa told **TOI** that the focus was on strengthening the entire teaching-learning cycle. "We ensured timely completion of syllabus, standardised preparation tools and monitoring of academic progress in colleges."

Time for revision

One of the key measures was mandating completion of the syllabus by Dec, giving students time for revision and practice. "This created a structured preparation window before the exam, which was missing earlier," the minister said.

The department also ensured the early appointment of guest lecturers from June. "Availability of teachers from day one helped avoid learning gaps, especially in govt colleges," he said. For the first time, uniform academic support material was rolled out statewide. "We introduced subject-wise blueprints, model question papers and exhaustive question banks so that students clearly understand the pattern and expectations," he added.

Preparatory exams

A major shift came with the conduct of two state-level preparatory examinations using centrally set papers. "These exams helped us identify student-wise and subject-wise gaps. Based on that, targeted interventions were taken at the college level," the minister said.

To track the implementation, the department introduced large-scale academic monitoring. "We conducted regular audio conferences with thousands of lecturers to review progress and ensure accountability," he said, adding that training programmes through District Institutes of Education and Training and the Department of State Educational Research and Training were held to improve teaching methods.

The minister highlighted the steps to fix accountability. "Where academic performance was consistently poor, the responsibility was fixed. This sent a clear message across the system," he said.

Focused attention was given to underperforming regions. "In Kalyana Karnataka, we held direct meetings with principals and closely monitored the performance," the minister said.

TIMES TRIBUTE

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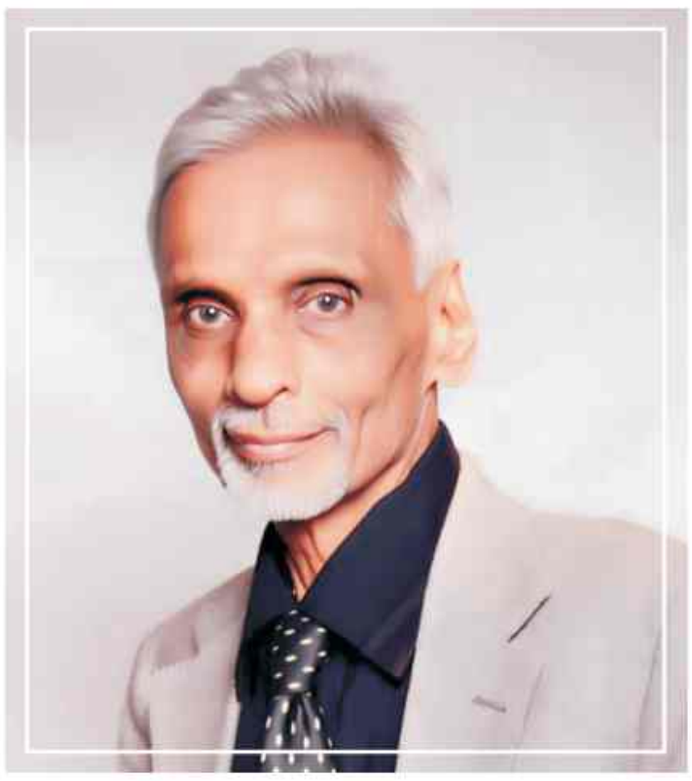

Sri Belagodu Parthasarathy

7 Oct 1936 - 17 April 2026

Was called to eternal rest and peace.
He lived with calm, and left us with it.

We pay our heartfelt respects and tributes

Wife-
Smt Kalyani Parthasarathy
Daughters & Sons-in-law-
Sheilaa & Niranjan Gupta
Anu & Shashi Gupta
Nagarekha and Srini Dagalur

Sister-in-law-
Smt. Punyavathi Bhakthavatsala
Niece-
Lakshmi & Srinivasan
Nephew-
Raghu Belagodu & Anita

All Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren

Vice President : Vasavi Hostel Trust
Trustee : Vasavi Education Trust

Belagodu Family

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Loved by Wife- Sunitha Singh, Inderjeet Singh and Brinda S Kurpad , Bikram Jeet Singh and Simran Jeet Kaur, **Grand children** Vansh Preet Singh ,Pratyush Singh, Harshee Kaur
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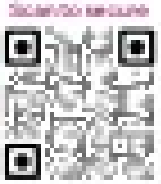

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Sabarmati [illegible] Usmanpura [illegible] Vastrapur [illegible] Vejalpur [illegible]
Vishwakarma Industrial Estate Nagar [illegible] / [illegible] Jodhpur [illegible] Rajamandhalli [illegible] R K Puram [illegible] Sahakaranagar [illegible] Sanjaya Nagar [illegible] Sri Nagar [illegible] Satpadra Road [illegible] Sutrapada [illegible] Vadodara [illegible] Bhubaneshwar Road [illegible] Vrindavan [illegible] Bhubaneshwar [illegible] Rajpuri [illegible] Pondicherry [illegible]

AP to boost India's gold hunt as first private mine opens in May

Facility Expected To Produce 1,000kg Refined Gold Per Year At Peak Capacity

Samdani.MN@timesofindia.com

Aerial view of Geomysore goldmine, Jonnagiri, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh

Kurnool: From the time of Emperor Ashoka to the renewed push for Aatmanirbhar Bharat, India's enduring fascination with the yellow metal has been both cultural and economic. Now, in Andhra Pradesh's mineral-rich Kurnool district, a centuries-long dormant ambition is turning into reality.

The processing plant of Geomysore Services India Pvt Ltd's Jonnagiri gold project — India's first large-scale private gold mine since Independence — is set to go live in the first week of May, with pre-commercial operations underway.

India imports over 800 tonnes of gold every year, which puts sustained pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

Chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is expected to dedicate the Jonnagiri project to the nation. "This is a landmark moment — not just for Andhra Pradesh, but also for India's broader (gold) mining ambitions," said Mukesh Kumar Meena, state principal secretary, mines and geology.

The project, spread across 598 hectares in Jonnagiri, Eragudi and Pagidirayi villages, has attracted over Rs 400 crore in investments. BSE-listed Geomysore Services is backed by Thriveni Earthmovers & Infra — one of India's largest mine developers — and Deccan Gold.

The project has robust estimates. Certified resources stand at 13.1 tonnes of gold, with potential up to 42.5 tonnes. At peak capacity, the mine is expected to produce up to 1,000 kg of refined gold annually over the next 15 years.

Before dawn over Kurnool, silence at the Jonnagiri gold fields gives way to drills, controlled blasts and excavators clawing through layers that have guarded their secrets for millennia.

"Success of this project should encourage many investors to come into the gold and critical mineral sector," said Hanuma Prasad Modali, director of Geomysore and managing director of Deccan Gold.

The processing plant was commissioned in 13 months. "Jonnagiri reflects what India is capable of... creating a model for responsible, efficient and globally competitive mining in the country," said B Prabhakaran, founder and managing director of Thriveni Earthmovers.

The project comes as domestic production remains limited. Hutti Gold Mines yields about 1.5 tonnes annually, while Kolar Gold Fields shut in 2000. NMDC Ltd has diversified into gold mining largely through overseas acquisitions.

Experts say the Jonnagiri project may not immediately transform India's gold import bill, but signals a structural shift towards tapping domestic mineral wealth.

Day after SC order, tehsildar run over by mafia

Ashis Senapati | TNN

Kendrapada: A day after the Supreme Court expressed concern over sand mafia operating in the country, a tehsildar in Jajpur district sustained serious injuries on Saturday after he was allegedly assaulted and run over by a tractor while trying to stop illegal excavation and transportation of minor minerals at Meena Bazaar Chhak under Korei police station.

Prasanta Kumar Panda (53), tehsildar of Vyasanagar, attempted to intercept a soil-laden tractor but the driver allegedly rammed the vehicle into him, leaving the officer critically injured. Locals rushed Panda to the community health centre at Korei, from where he was referred to SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack.

His condition remains serious, said additional district magistrate (ADM), Kalinganagar, Sapan Kumar Nanda.

Citing the Odisha Minor Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, the ADM said lifting of soil or sand without prior permission is illegal. "We have directed police to take stern action against the miscreants who tried to kill the tehsildar," Nanda said.

Rakesh Mohapatra of Korei police station said police rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident and seized two soil-laden tractors. One person has been detained, while other accused managed to flee. "Raids are on to nab all those involved," he said.

A case has been registered. Alleging large-scale illegal mining in the district, social worker Amarbar Biswal said the incident exposed the unchecked operations of sand and soil mafias. He also alleged that frequent clashes among rival mafia groups have worsened law and order in many villages.

Govt approves 2% hike in DA for staff, pensioners

Times News Network

New Delhi: Cabinet on Saturday approved a 2% hike in the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) for central govt employees and pensioners. This will benefit around 1.19 crore serving personnel and pensioners.

The hike is expected to be effective from Jan 1 and will entail an additional fiscal outgo of Rs 6,791 crore for govt, I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. Govt said the increase in DA and DR is to compensate against price rise.

With this revision, DA will rise from 60% of basic pay. The DA and DR for central govt employees and pensioners was last revised in Oct, when it was increased to 58% from 55%, effective from July 1, 2025. "This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission," a statement said.

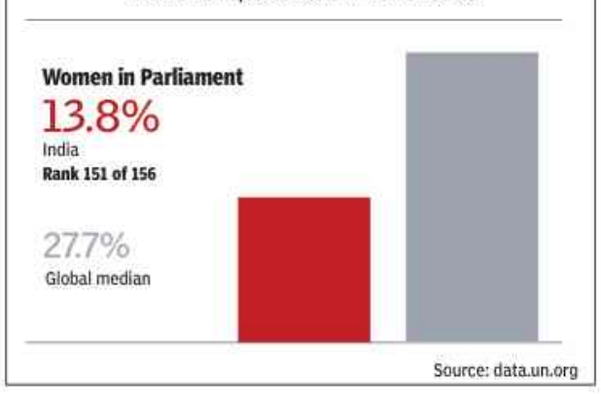
Char Dham yatra begins today

Dehradun: The Char Dham yatra is set to commence Sunday with the opening of the portals of Yamunotri and Gangotri shrines. The Kedarnath shrine will open on April 22, followed by Badrinath on April 23. TNN

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

India's Parliament scores well below global median on women

India ranks 151 out of 156 countries on women's representation in the House



Source: data.un.org

Amravati sex abuse: 15-yr-old survivor gives statement to SIT

Abhishek Choudhari, Anil Jadhav & Sarfaraz Ahmed | TNN

Amravati/Nagpur: In a breakthrough in the Amravati sexual abuse case, a 15-year-old survivor from Nagpur recorded her statement before the SIT on Saturday, travelling 250 km to Paratwada police station in Amravati district. Seven other identified survivors are yet to come forward despite extensive outreach.

The Nagpur girl, befriended during a Sufi saint's Urs and likely the only survivor lured offline, recorded her statement before a women-led SIT team and child protection officials. She is "healthy and mentally stable," said SP (rural) Vishal Anand.

Police are now mulling additional sections to the FIR that was registered suo motu on Monday. Key accused Ayaan Ahmed, co-accused Uzer Khan and six others are already named in the FIR, filed on April 13 under the Pocso Act, IT Act and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

The biggest legal hurdle in the probe was the lack of any complaint from the survivors. Though eight survivors were identified after Ayaan's interrogation, no one came forward to file an official complaint, fearing social stigma. Police appealed to families through community leaders and assured them of confidentiality, something which legal provisions already guarantee.

A concerted effort by Amravati police, members of state minorities commission and child welfare committee and counsellors finally bore fruit, when the 15-year-old appeared before the SIT. On Friday, NCW chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar had questioned why stricter legal provisions had not been invoked in the case. She directed the investigators to intensify efforts to remove all obscene material circulated online.

Student dies after javelin pierces neck

Prem Punetha | TNN

Pithoragarh: A second-year polytechnic student, aged 20 years, was killed in a tragic incident after a javelin thrown by another student pierced his neck during a practice session hours before the start of their annual college sports day at Champawat, on Saturday. Bohra, a resident of Pati block in Machhyad area, suffered a deep wound in his neck, and succumbed to his injury.

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Narayana Schools have once again delivered outstanding results in the CBSE Class 10 Board Examinations 2026, with students across Bengaluru achieving near-perfect scores and reinforcing a consistent record of academic excellence.

Leading the cohort are **Ahaan Sajeevan (498/500) and Sanjana Reddy (498/500), followed by Bhuvi Veerendra Sutar, P. Nithish Raaj, and Shaurya Manoj Wattamwar (497/500 each).** These results are a strong reflection of Narayana's structured and result-oriented academic system.

Behind these results is an integrated learning approach that combines **early foundation building, continuous assessments, and personalised mentorship.** Students are trained not just to prepare, but to improve consistently through disciplined practise and clear conceptual understanding.

Sharing insights from their preparation journeys, students highlighted the impact of Narayana's academic framework.

Sanjana Reddy pointed to the role of Daily Practice Tests, revision cycles, and a disciplined environment in improving accuracy and maintaining consistency.

Bhuvi Veerendra Sutar credited structured mentorship, regular assessments, and detailed error analysis for sharpening her focus and enabling steady improvement.

Nithish Raaj emphasised that consistent practice, strong foundational learning, and continuous teacher support helped him stay disciplined and confident.

Shaurya Manoj Wattamwar noted that Narayana's focus on conceptual clarity and its "Mistake to Mastery" approach helped her move beyond memorisation and build confidence.

Ahaan Sajeevan highlighted how rigorous testing, detailed feedback, and mentorship helped transform weaknesses into strengths.

"My result feels surreal, but it's built on consistent effort and Narayana's system. The eTechno programme's rigorous tests, and detailed feedback turned weaknesses into strengths. Teacher mentorship and my parents' support kept me confident throughout."- Ahaan Sajeevan.

This consistent performance underscores the strength of Narayana's system-where every **test becomes feedback, every mistake becomes learning, and every student progresses with clarity and confidence.**

Congratulating the students, Dr. Sindhura Narayana, Director of Narayana Educational Institutions, said:

"These exceptional results reflect not just the hard work of our students, but also the strength of our academic system. We are proud to nurture young minds who are not only exam-ready but future-ready too."

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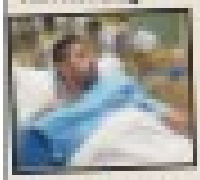
Dayn Malik shares photo from hospital bed, says he is 'still recovering'



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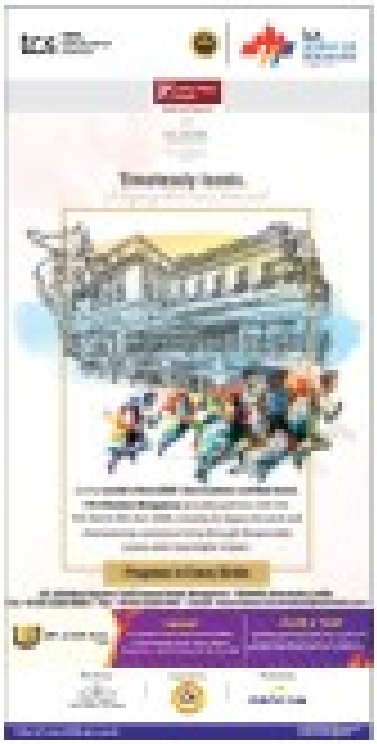
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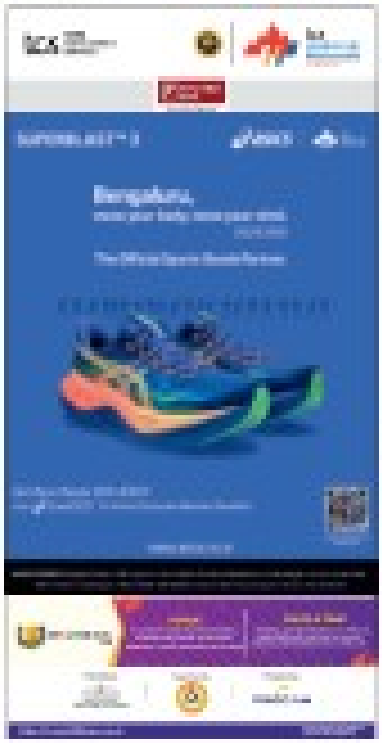
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Caterer pushes boy into tandoor for eating rasgullas at UP wedding

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: An 11-year-old boy is battling for life after he was pushed into a burning tandoor by a catering contractor on Friday for eating rasgullas at a wedding in UP's Basti district. The accused has been arrested.

The victim, Chaman of Gonda, had been living with his maternal grandparents' family in Basti's Chhawani area after his mother's death. He had accompanied his grandmother to a relative's wedding. According to family members, Chaman was playing at the venue before he went to the area where the food was being prepared, and began eating sweets.

Eyewitnesses said the catering contractor, Lalji Nishad, 35, saw the boy repeatedly taking rasgullas, and thought he was an intruder at the wedding. Lalji dragged the child to the cooking area and forced him to sit on a burning tandoor. The boy lost balance and fell into the tandoor, suffering severe burns from face to waist.

10th Indian ship crosses Strait; one on evacuation list attacked

Dipak Dash & Sachin Parashar

Iranian envoy Mohammad Fathali leaves the MEA after being summoned over the shooting incident involving Indian vessels in Hormuz Saturday

New Delhi: Amid firing by Iranian gunboats that caused two Indian-flagged tankers to turn back from Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, the tenth Indian-flagged vessel crossed the strait. Desh Garima, carrying crude oil, was on its way to Mumbai port.

Iran had been sporadically allowing Indian vessels to sail through since it decided to block the key energy strait last month in the middle of its war with the US and Israel which began on Feb 28.

Vessel details available on Maritime Traffic show that several Indian- and foreign-flagged ships destined for Indian ports are still waiting to cross the Hormuz. Official data shows 13 Indian vessels are in Persian Gulf (to west of Hormuz), six in Gulf of Oman (east of Hormuz), one in Gulf of Aden and three in Red Sea.

According to petroleum ministry, 17 vessels have been identified for evacuation, which include four LPG carriers, three LNG carriers and 10 crude oil tankers. While three of these are Indian-flagged vessels, the remaining 14 are foreign-flagged ships.

Similarly, chemicals and fertilisers ministry has drawn up a list of another 16 ships for evacuation, including one Indian-flagged vessel (Jag Arnav), which was attacked by IRGC on Saturday.

Officials said that as of Saturday, there are 499 Indian seafarers aboard Indian-flagged vessels in Persian Gulf region — 343 to the west of Strait of Hormuz and 156 in Gulf of Oman. So far, 2,487 seafarers have been evacuated by various shipping companies.

According to Reuters, vessels attempting to cross Strait of Hormuz Saturday received radio messages from Iran's navy telling them they were not allowed to pass, while two ships reported being hit by gunfire.

India must stay ready: Rajnath informs IGoM

New Delhi: Defence minister Rajnath Singh Saturday termed the ground situation in West Asia as "uncertain and volatile", stressing the need for India to remain prepared for both de-escalation and any renewed escalation.

Rajnath said this at the informal group of ministers (IGoM), headed by him, which reviewed the situation and discussed India's preparedness and future course of action. In a post on X, he said the govt continues to take swift steps to mitigate risks arising from the conflict.

The minister highlighted Cabinet approval of 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool' to ensure affordable coverage for maritime trade. TNN

Insurance pool to shield shipping from global risk shocks

▶ Continued from P1

The pool seeks to offer uninterrupted and affordable insurance coverage to Indian shipping lines — more so when global conflicts are disrupting traditional risk cover arrangements, with war surcharges becoming almost prohibitive for Indian shipping lines, as seen during the West Asia crisis.

Announcing the decision, I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the domestic insurance pool will address global volatility, geopolitical instability and reduce external insurance dependency of Indian vessels.

Shipping minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** said the "transformational step" will strengthen India's maritime resilience. The pool will be operational for 10 years and can be extended for five more. Policies will be issued by insurers that are pool members, using the combined underwriting capacity of the pool, which would be around Rs 950 crore.

At present, Indian shipping lines rely heavily on international insurers, particularly International Group of Protection and Indemnity (IGP&I) Clubs, for third-party liability coverage.

Govt said the pool will help manage locally liability insurance, tailored to Indian shipping conditions and regulatory requirements, and develop specialised marine underwriting, claims management and legal expertise within the country.

Vaishnaw said that GIC (General Insurance Council) Re will act as administrator of the insurance pool.

Villagers rescue deer from dogs, then eat it; 5 held

Rashmi.Drolia
@timesofindia.com

Raipur: What began as a rescue turned into a hunt in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district, where villagers killed and consumed a spotted deer after saving it from a pack of dogs. The incident took place in Delari village under the Raigarh forest division, where a spotted deer strayed into the village.

Soon after entering the habitation, the animal was chased and injured by a pack of dogs. Police said some villagers first drove away the dogs and rescued the injured animal. The same group, though, later killed it and distributed its meat among themselves, police said.

Police detained five suspects — Atmaram Rathia, Mayaram Rathia, Haricharan Sao, Tarun Agaria, and Motilal Agaria — and later arrested them after they allegedly confessed to the offence during questioning.

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1. Tender documents will be sent by e-mail on receipt of payment of Rs. 50,000/- by Demand Draft in favor of M/s. Saint-Gobain India Pvt. Ltd., payable at Mumbai - before 30th April 2026.
2. The DD has to be sent to the below mentioned address. This amount would be refunded in 3 months from the submission date.
3. Please mention the mail ID on which the tender documents must be sent.
4. The Tender form shall be sent between 1st May 2026 to 10th May 2026.
5. The last date of submission of quotation shall be 25th May 2026.
CONTACT DETAILS:
Mr. Yahappa Rajan. S
Team Leader - Purchase
Saint-Gobain India Pvt. Ltd.
Plot A1, Industrial Park, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu - 602 105, India.
Email:
yahappa.rajan@saint-gobain.com
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I, Divya Raju Chambhare, D/o Rajendra Anandrao Chambhare, R/o, Plot No.1129, Binaki Layout, NR.Shashtri Agarbatti, Anand nagar, Dr.Ambedkar Marg, Nagpur, Maharashtra-440017, have changed my name to Divya Rajendra Chambhare, vide affidavit dated: 15.04.2026, Notary V.Rangaraju Bengaluru

I, SHRINIVAS S. Balli, R/at Sughosh, No.C-51, Sector No.21, Navanagar, Bagalkot-587103, Karnataka, have changed my name from Shrinivas Balli to Shrinivas S. Balli vide affidavit dated 17-04-2026 sworn before Notary A. Narayanaswamy, Bangalore Rural.

I, SRINIVAS DN Resident of Bhuvaneshwarinagar, Dodballapur, Bangalore Rural 561203. have changed my name to SRINIVASALU D N vide affidavit dated 18.04.2026 sworn before notary M Mohankumar, Dodballapur

I, Ranvijay Singh R/o Robin-306, Sattva Celesta , Tc Palya , Old Madras Road , Kr Puram Bengaluru -560049 have changed my minor son name from Rudra Singh to Triyaksh Singh

I, Ravindra B Dependent (Father) of Dheeraj S R resident of Seesandra (v) Kolar 563101 have changed my name from Ravindra B to B Ravindra Vide Affidavit IN-KA32101448562227Y dtd 11 Apr 2026 before High Court Karnataka

I Deepapriyadharshini Rajamani W/O. Rajamani R/o No 787, Corporation Colony, 9th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore 560069 have changed my name to Deepa priyadharshini Palani.

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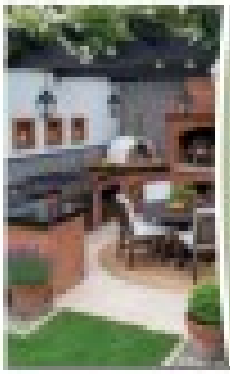

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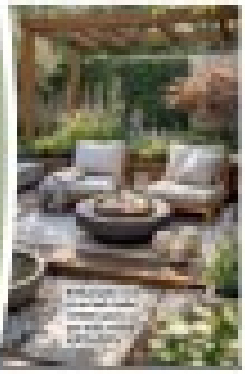

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Protein Milkshake Chocolate 180 mL / ₹40*

Dark Chocolate Drink 180 mL / ₹25*

Badam Shake 200 mL / ₹40*

Pina Colada 200 mL / ₹35*

Lassi 200 mL / ₹20*

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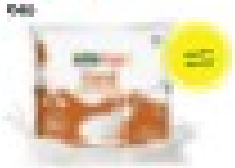

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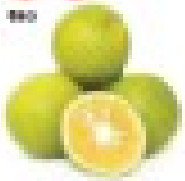

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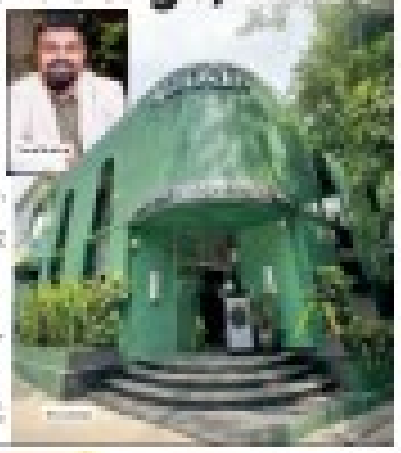

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Court seeks Sonia's reply in voter list case

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During the hearing, the counsel for the complainant concluded oral arguments and sought permission to place on record certain documents received from the Election Commission of India

New Delhi: A Delhi court Saturday directed Congress parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi to file written submissions in a criminal revision petition alleging fraudulent inclusion of her name in electoral rolls prior to acquiring Indian citizenship, listing the matter for May 16.

During the hearing, the counsel for the complainant concluded oral arguments and sought permission to place on record certain documents received from the Election Commission of India (ECI). The court allowed the request and took the documents on record.

It was argued that the revision petition, moved by advocate Vikas Tripathi, does not seek commencement of trial at this stage but only a direction to the police to investigate the allegations.

The complainant's counsel further contended that at the time Sonia Gandhi's name was allegedly included in the voter list, she had not acquired Indian citizenship, raising suspicion that the inclusion may have been based on forged or fraudulent documents.

Opposing the plea, Sonia Gandhi submitted that the allegations are "politically motivated", baseless, and founded on incorrect and misleading facts. She argued that questions relating to citizenship fall exclusively within the jurisdiction of the central govt, while disputes concerning electoral rolls lie within the authority of the Election Commission. She also stated that no credible documentary evidence has been produced to substantiate allegations of forgery or fraud, and described the proceedings as an abuse of the legal process.

Her counsel sought liberty to advance additional submissions on the next date of hearing, which court permitted, directing both sides to file written arguments within a week. Earlier, a magistrate court had dismissed the complaint seeking registration of an FIR, holding that judicial intervention would be barred under Article 329 of the Constitution.

Parties need to be given opportunity to address court: HC in Rahul case

▸ Continued from page 1

According to the Allahabad HC order, the counsel for the petitioner and govts informed the court there was no need to issue notice, following which a detailed order directing the registration of an FIR was passed in the open court.

However, before the order could be typed and signed, Justice Vidyarthi found that a full bench of the Allahabad high court, in a judgment passed in 2014, had held that "...the person suspected of having committed the crime is entitled to a hearing before a decision is taken in a criminal revision petition".

The order further says that in view of this legal position, it would not be appropriate to decide the matter without issuing notice to respondent No. 1 (Rahul Gandhi). "The parties need to be given an opportunity to address the court on this aspect of the matter," Justice Vidyarthi said, fixing April 20 as the next date of hearing.

On Friday, on the petition of S Vignesh Shishir, a BJP worker from Karnataka, the bench had dictated an order in open court directing registration of an FIR and investigation against Rahul for allegedly concealing his British citizenship. The petitioner's application for registration of FIR against the Congress MP had earlier been rejected by the lower court. He challenged the order in the high court.

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BTECH IT professional, Nov93/6feet from Rajasthan Manager MNC above25LPA Seeking Educated family-oriented girl Ph:9828317724

VAISH

JAISWAL Boy B.Tech - IIT (K),IAS (Jharkhand)/26/5'10" Gora / Edu. Fmly. Pref - Prof. Edu Girl. Caste no Bar. Send BHP # rpc.ncr5@gmail.com

SM for unmarried Gupta boy Oct 79, 5'-8", MCA, working MNC Gurugram 30 LPA. Bureau & Divorcee excuse. WhatsApp 8427276447

BY COMMUNITY

AGARWAL

AGARWAL Punjabi boy, March 98, 5'4"well settled in Bangalore family bususiness seeks educated Hindu girl from respectable family. 9341053100

BY RELIGION

CHRISTIAN

WANTED Christian God fearing girl preferably PG in medical for 5ft 7" MDS handsome boy 29 yr reputed family in Jabalpur Con : sandeep_2011@rediffmail.com 7692800306

HINDU

SM4 handsome cultured 28/5'8 MBA from reputed institute working in Mumbai with MNC, from affluent professional family, looking for smart educated girl from a good family background Contact: 7738384326

MUDALIAR, 33 Years Old, 174 Cm. Height, Engineer Employee, Hyderabad. Belongs To A Well-Off Family. Seeks A Suitable Bride Between The Ages Of 27 To 30 From A Well-Off Family. Ct: 98845 13749

WANTED -BRIDE: For a Well Settled Business Man Based in Mangalore, NEVER MARRIED Hindu Brahmin , Aged: 50/ 5'11", Seeks suitable bride, 34-39 years. Caste No Bar.WhatsApp/call:7975425487

SEEKING Bride for NRI,Handsome,35,5'9",Reddy, Affluent family. REQ: Girl working in Australia. con: 7396279292, 8639232860

MUSLIM

WANTED beautiful doctor PG/PG going for sunni Mch Uro doctor boy from well settled dini doctors family mob 9589035183.

SIKH

MATCH for cleanshaven Bhatia Sikh 32,5'6",only child ,pilot with international airline,50lacs pa. family owns properties of over 25cr.Call 9650777199

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

ALLIANCE invited for 5'8" MS Electrical Engineering, VLSI from USA. Non-smoking person, 46Y. Genuinely caring, open-minded and trusted individual with a level-headed, grounded approach. Values ethics, creativity, elegance & simplicity. Grew up in Mumbai. Visit nashineys.wordpress.com or search Facebook for Siddharth Nashiney. Creative posts on his blog/Facebook may shed light on the sincere, thoughtful essence inherent in his nature. Whatsapp Father T.R Nashiney +919769733721. Marriage bureaus - please excuse. Caste No Bar.

NRI, US Citizen, 51/ 5'6", entrepreneur (Real Estate & Insurance), NGO founder, also an author. Divorced, one daughter (living separately). Seeking supportive girl (Sikh/ Hindu), fluent in English, willing to relocate USA. No caste bar. Email with photo: samdray2025@gmail.com

MCA+MBA, Punjabi-Hindu, 41/5'8 never married. Wkg in BLR MNC 45 LPA. Seeks non-manglik educated girl. #9810157842

SINDHI 5'7"/57year Divorcee, Company Director, BE + MBA, based at Moscow, Russia, seeks suitable bride, caste / religion NO BAR. Ph: 9004528568 / shagan.russia@mail.ru

BENGALI (36 yrs, 5'10), Sr. Exec in a Tech MNC in Bangalore (30L) seeking a suitable prof. qlfd. girl based in B'lore. Caste no bar. Call 9073909929/8582836439

SM4 Del NCR based Nov 87/5'7", BA, LLB, LLM In-house Counsel in top MNC 25 plus lpa seeks b'ful well educated.W'app profile with pics 7838416665

PQM for Pb Khatri NM boy Dec91/5'6" 7.5LPA MBA Working Admin Gurgaon. Caste no bar. #9899242416, lakshayahuja05@gmail.com

PQM4 33 years, 6 feet, handsome, strongly built punjabi saraswat Brahmin boy working in MNC in Bengaluru . Salary 47+lac pa. 7489778004

SM for NRI (SC) boy/ 40/ 5'11"/ S/w engg/ separated/ soft & family oriented Parents retd. govt ser. Priority for Hindi belt. Caste no bar. M 9696211153

PQM4 H'some Brahmin Boy ,BTech, MBA ISB, 31Yr, 5'10", Teetotaler Non Smoking,CTC 40 LPA, w'king Gurugram. 7060884999.7060761485.

ESTD:1998 For Elite profiles both India/ abroad, 1st/ 2nd/ Late marriages (personalised services). CT Ushodhaya on 9611919477/ 9886884291

KOLKATA based 30/5'7"/ B.Tech/30+LPA Sr PM, keeps clean-shaven (bald look). Bisa Agarwal B'ness family. Caste no bar, WA 8777872709.

HINDU boy, 1982, 5 11", Onco. Surgeon, Seeks bride, Caste No Bar. Contact No.9324074800

HINDU boy, 1986, 5 11", Engg., Seeks Bride, Caste No Bar, Contact No. 9324074800

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

ASST PROF. IN REPUTED UNIVERSITY 30, 5'-6" SEEKING FOR EDUCATED GOODLOOKING BENGALI GIRL M:9208318881

BENGALI CA boy , Sept'81/ 5'8", Wkg in MNC Bank London, UK citizen, seeks Prof Qual wrking girl, min 5'3", within 40, +91-8904823096, subjaya2026@gmail.com .

Soulmate Premium

WANTED GROOM

Name: **Prajakta Mhatre**
Age: **27**
Place of Birth: **Navi Mumbai**
Current City: **Mumbai**
Religion: **Hindu**
Languages: **English, Hindi, Marathi**
Education: **MA**

Prajakta Mhatre, 27, works in media, in Mumbai. She believes in keeping things simple and honest.

I value clarity and consistency in a relationship

"I notice how people show up and their intention. It's usually the small things that say the most about a person," she says.

She likes things to be clear in relationships. She adds, "I like to know where things stand. I don't rush into things. I value honesty and intention."

Talking about what she wants in a partner, she explains, "I want to build a life with someone who is sure of himself, aware of his feelings, and knows what he wants. Also, consistency is extremely important to me because it builds trust over time."

Prajakta feels that it is not necessary for a couple to be similar in every way, but they should fit together. She says, "Shared values and emotional understanding are what really keep things going, especially after the initial excitement fades." Her idea of a perfect relationship is one that is simple, but purposeful. "It should have certain ease, but you shouldn't take it for granted. I don't think a relationship should be hard to understand. Effort and clarity go a long way."

She sees marriage as a partnership that you keep choosing. You are unique, but you are also working together to build something with stability, respect and a common goal. She does want to have children, but when the time is right, and when the relationship is strong and everything else is in order.

She values effort and likes to keep things light. She wants a relationship to be both meaningful and fun.

This OR that?
- Mountains or Beaches: **Beaches**
- Tea or Coffee: **Coffee**
- House parties or Clubbing: **Both**
- Movies or Books: **Books**
- Joint family or nuclear family?: **Nuclear**

Looking for...
A self-aware, emotionally grounded partner who values honesty, consistency, and is ready to build a stable, meaningful life together.

Interested in knowing Prajakta better? Write to her at ***prajaktam642@gmail.com***

MALAYALI

MALAYALI Pillai, 39, Bangalore-based entrepreneur, B.E., M.S., divorcee; seeks educated, cultured bride from good family. 8088542510

PUNJABI

SEEKING caring bride for issueless divorced MBA smart clean-shaven handsome Sikh gentleman 55 yrs and 5'10" residing in Mumbai suburb. Pls call/whatsapp 9820054157 or 9820054507.

NM, PQM for H'Som Veg, NM, Bahl Boy, Mar'97/ 5'9, B.Tech, Del, MBA (NMIMS-Bom), Wrkg Tata Grp, Blr, 33 LPA # 9899112611/ 9811765551

WANTED Punjabi Bride 30/5'9" Btech-MBA IIM, Working MNC 40 LPA. Caste No Bar Business family. Contact: 9407932961, 9009486689.

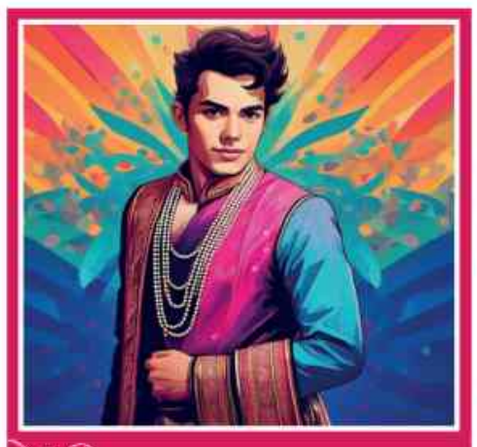
Professionally Qlfd Working Match for
B.Tech, MBA, Punjabi Khatri only son 32/ 6'1"/ Wrkg. Senior Mgmt. ED Tech Gurgaon, Well Settled, Edu. Gurgaon based broad-minded family
Send details W'App/ Call **9999788949**

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

US based well settled Electrical engineer PhD brahmin boy 1995/5'10" seeks US educated working girl. contact 8448950105

PUNJABI Arora boy 35 Yr/ 171/B.Tech, MS USA. Employed in USA (H1B). Seeks Edu. employed bride.Parents own flat in Delhi # 9899686058



WANTED GROOMS

BY CASTE

AGARWAL - BISA

CA Agarwal Girl 32/5'-1" Wheatish, Job Gurgaon 21 Lpa, Seeks Well Settled, Highly Educated, Vegetarian Groom. Cont: 9839083290

BRAHMIN

PG Doctor/ IITIAN/ UPSC for Beautiful Brahmin 34/ 5'4" Asst professor AIIMS doctor family 7091527011

ODIA Brahmin family invites alliance for 31yrs daughter, fair, 5'3", B.Tech (CSE) from NIT, well placed in Seattle, USA. In search of Odia Brahmin / Karan groom with similar background. WhatsApp with complete biodata to: 9437072475

JAIN

JAIN 28, 5'7" B'ful S/W Eng. wkg Meta Newyork 1.80 CR (Ft ENT Dr.) seeks US bsd w'stld w'edu gud looking boy Upper cast no bar 9301550045

KAYASTHA

KAYASTHA girl,Sept.96,5'7",b'full,Sr.Manager MNC Gurgaon,35 LPA,MBA ISB Hydb.,MBA+Engg.NMIMS MUM.,seeks well settled boy in India from Civil Service or Corporate,IIT/IIM/equival ent,UCNB. Contact:7999744147

SEEKING a qualified boy for a June'96-born girl, 5'6", MBA/ Advertising, working in an MNC in a metro city. Family based in Lucknow #9415101865

MATCH for 23'5"fair B.teh(CS spl.AI &ML) wrk as Software engineer in MNC em: outlook1005a@gmail.com 9868103516/9968654396

NAIDU

SEEKING Never married Tamil / Telugu groom age (43-44)working in Chennai or US for Naidu bride., SWE Ct +91 9543322082 / 044-31547506

VAISH

IIT Bombay M.Tech , Gupta/-Kesharwani girl 29/5.3" currently wkg as Sr. Mngr in leading Org. Mumbai. Raipur (CG) bsd b'sn fmly 6261710043

BY COMMUNITY

AGARWAL

SINGHAL Noida based girl b'ful slim brilliant LLM (NLU Jodhpur)wrkg social auditor Mar'98/5'5". Highly qlfd fmly of CAs & Drs. seeks well sttld Agarwal boy.W'ap: 9837126640

JAT

MBA BTech girl Sep 86/5'3 Job Bank Canada PR, US Green card, Father Doctor Delhi seeks Prof Qual boy-9818617806, aadi.rajyan@gmail.com

NORTH INDIAN

BEAUTIFUL & Fair Brahmin girl working at Tier-1 US MNC, 45-50LPA, 30yrs, 5'6". Affluent family settled in Bangalore. Looking for a handsome boy 5'10" & above working in good company. M:9419181698

BY PROFESSION

DOCTORS

KAYASTH 17.4.96, 5'6" NM MBBS, MS, Persuing M.ch in Plastic Surgery 11.50Lpa Seeks w'stld Dr Prefd. Uppr cast no bar. 9425081375,9424054010

"KANNADIGA Brahmin parents invite proposals for their daughter, 26, 152cm, good-looking, pursuing MD Anaesthesiology in Mumbai. Seeking qualified Doctor (MD/MS/DM/MCh) groom, settled/willing to settle in Mumbai. Send bio-data/photo to mat.mumbai99@gmail.com ."

SUITABLE MATCH FOR A GIRL
29/5'4", MS (ENT)
Currently Senior Resident at GMC Kozhikode. Belongs to a respectable Punjabi family from Mumbai. Father is into Construction Business, Brother is Deputy Commissioner (IRS). Looking for a highly qualified professional (Medical/Civil Services/Business) from a Cultured Background.
Pref : 5'7"+, Age : 29-33 Yrs.
Call: **9820053170**

IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES

BUREAUCRATIC bkgrnd family seeking suitable match for their daughter in civil services, 85/ 5'4, divorced. Civil services preferred. CNB. W/A profile @9462565730

BY RELIGION

HINDU

MBA, MCom(30/5'1"")only child,working in MNC,of bengali industrialist.Own house in South Kolkata.Seeks alliance frm prof. qualified elite family .9748704571

Looking for GROOM
Bangalore based Beautiful divorcee Bengali girl, height 5'3" age 31working as a Pilot in Airline as captain
Email at: Suchato2002@yahoo.com
Call /message on 8527014778

SHRIVASTAVA Girl 19-03-89 (9:50 AM) /5'6 SAP Bangalore 43LPA. Family from Bhopal, MP Looking for suitable boy Contact: 9425149643, 9424467288

MUSLIM

SUNNI Sheikh Siddiqui girl, 5'3"/ 1996 smart, convent-edu, MBBS MD Medicine, affluent family. Seeking MD/MS/DM /MCh doctor, Civil Servant or Businessman. # 9839901213

MASTERS n Qualified Teacher Status Shia Syed B'ful girl 28yrs 168cms from UK. Teaching in London having Skilled Visa Bought up in India 9839413369, +447440774954

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

SM4 Delhi based Gaur Brahmin girl 5'2" NM 26/07/89 (5:42 PM) Delhi Food Techno. DU and PG Packg (IIP Delhi) working in a Glob MNC Bangalore Caste & food no bar. Seeks bachelor boy from Hindu comm, Delhi NCR & Bangalore Call & WhatsApp: 8076256300

MBBS, MD Ansthsiology Tata Kayastha Bride 22.7.87/5'2" Mumbai,D.dib fel'Cardio & C care MRCP Part I & II. Pref. MD/Dr, IT. Ph: 9821212409, E: sinhaassociates27@gmail.com

SM4 well educated Sept'84/ 160cm wkg Sr. Manager Punjabi Khatri never married girl Jaipur bsd edu n cultured fmly pref India based professionally settled boy. drhemantanand@gmail.com

SEEKING aliance from upper caste for Bangalore based, beautiful girl, 95/5'6", MArch, daughter of Army officer, mother, sister doctors.Contact 9885186147

PQSM4 Sikh Girl, Fair, June' 89, PG Diploma, B.Com. Agility Lead, MNC Hyderabad. 8390380566-Sister. Prefer: Punjabi-Sikh/ Hindu

SM4 Kayasth girl October 89/5'4"/fair/B.Tech. from IIT plus MBA (USA) 90 LPA works in Bangalore. Caste no bar. # 9411219372,9456600079 after 8PM

DGM Mumbai, 36/5'6", Sindhi Good Looking girl, Divorced, Seeks suitable Match, Caste no bar. Call: 9969058697 / 9833592418

SM4 Kayastha Aug 94,5'3",BE(CS) V Fair V B'Ful slim girl N Veg, NM, wkg Pune MNC seeks prof Qlfd well settled match 9881113623

SM 4 Rajput 35/ 5'3" MBA (Fashion Designer) b'ful Indore based homely girl. Open for all Upper Caste. Indore based preferred. 9300473725

PQM4 Feb 95 born B'ful & Fair 5'3",Sr UX researcher at MNC Bangalore (Pal ksbatriya) looking for well stld IT sec boy. 9106511718/9428330317

COSMOPOLITAN

IAS/IPS/IIT/PROFESSOR /WELL Qualified Match For Beautiful Fair 31YR 168 CM Gaur Bhhamin Girl Jaipur Based Family PhD English From Oxford UK Mail: anuragupmanyu02@gmail.com WhatsApp: +91 9929355077

BEAUTIFUL, slim Rajput girl, NM 35/5'7". PG (Europe), Des Consultant in Delhi. Looking for well-settled NM groom, tall, 35-42 yrs. js.vivah26@gmail.com

ATTRACTIVE 31, 165, well-educated (IIT+MBA), family-oriented. Affluent, cultured family. Seeks kind, compatible groom. Call or WA 9345 634 365.

PRETTY, Fair, B'lore, Professional, 33 5'7", Master's, Progressive family, Non-veg, Groom tall, cultured, educated, smart, well-placed. 8618070295.

NAIDU girl, 30/5'8", MBA, MNC professional, Rs. 40L, Mumbai. Seeks well-settled, qualified groom, Rs. 40L+. WhatsApp: 9426614998

SECOND MARRIAGE

DIVORCEE Tamil 41 PQ MNC B'lore seeks qualified Hindu groom in India without issues CNB. ndkp2025@outlook.com

Wanted educated groom for upper middle class, Bengali,Educated,working,divorcee girl 43 yrs, 5"5 contact 8527800871

BY LANGUAGE

BENGALI

BENGALI Brahmin Girl 1992/5'5" Slim fair working in airlines (Grd. Crew) at Delhi, Non-Veg. Seeks well-settled, Educated Groom.:- 97698 85822

MALAYALI

LONDON PG girl, MNC BLR, Ezhava, 26 yrs, 155 cm. Native Thrissur, seeks Malayali Ezhava Hindu groom, PG, MNC, well settled. 9880220199.

PUNJABI

SM4 B'ful, well-edu. Pjbi girl, 27/5'1", Runs own B'ness From repu. Pjbi b'ness fmly, Delhi. Seeks Pjbi b'ness class fmly # 9810075108

GROOM WANTED
A WELL EDUCATED PUNJABI/HINDU GROOM FOR A POSTGRADUATE VERY FAIR CHARMING PUNJABI KSHATRIYA DAUGHTER 33 yrs. 157 cm FROM A HIGHLY EDUCATED LEADING BUSINESS FAMILY AT BHOPAL.
Email: bs6925ed@gmail.com

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

USA SFO/Bay Area groom for convent educated Agarwal girl. Never married. Oct. '88, 5'4", M.Des. (Ivy League). Working with state govt. Mo/WhAp 9850588978.

IYER Brahmin Parents seek for their daughter. Dentist (BDS Mumbai, MPh Houston, DDS UCLA) in San Francisco, (H1B visa ,I-140 Green Card in process) , 35/5'2", Vegetarian, a suitably Qlfd, Smart & Very Well Settled Match from the USA. Iyers prefd. Send details to : malaika_n@hotmail.com ,WA/M: 9833494080

✔ **BS** Comp Engg from USA, Feb 90/5'2" Punjabi Gupta girl, Wkg Int Org Toronto, seeks PQ boy in USA/ India/Canada, 9899105601

MATCH for Seattle Microsoft SW Engr, Dec'91,5'5",beautiful North Indian girl. Caste, lower age no bar. Parents in Bangalore WA 9845624616

CANADA Citizen Brahmin Girl 89/5'4 very well settled seeks well settled educated US/canada based boy 9810587785

An Elite Industrialist family of Delhi seeking alliance for their 28/5'1, Ivy League educated, beautiful, cultured, smart daughter based in US. Looking for well educated, cosmopolitan, well settled, progressive boy from respected affluent family.
Contact **9811109134**
Or Mail Us At
shinegroom01@gmail.com

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

Gold is money. Everything else is credit - J P Morgan

Big screen's biggest loyalists? Gen Z!

'Gen Z is most loyal to the theatrical experience in US'

The cinema supporters

65 to 70% of ticket sales are online, with the bulk of the audience in Gen Z

59% of cinema-ticket US per Gen Z is a movement for theatrical experience

78% of ticket sales are online, and the bulk of the audience in Gen Z

The average Gen Z cinema watches 10 to 12 times a theatrical year

Gen Z sees cinema as the biggest spectacle in leisure, cinema, including fast

Source: Cinema Exhibitors and Wikimedia

'Gen 40 to 70% of ticket sales are online, and the bulk of the audience in Gen Z'

'For Gen Z, filing a film after means making sure everyone knows about it'

Special formats, better sound, more comfort: Gen Z embraces the full cinema experience

'Whatever is hyped on social media, we want to go and watch it'

My intention is to invest more in myself: Mrunal

'Years is shifting towards experiences'

MRUNAL THAKUR

'Having talented as others makes the chase fun'

Delhi HC to pass order protecting personality rights of Allu Arjun

FILM REVIEWS
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Reviews in short

Golden Beginnings

AKSHAYA TRITIYA SPECIAL

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

The yellow metal's digital moment

Jewellery remains central to the festival, but with AI-assisted design and virtual try-ons, and rising interest in Gold ETFs, the way consumers discover, buy, and invest in gold is changing

PriyaC.Nair
@timesofindia.com

Gold buying may remain a ritual on Akshaya Tritiya, but the way people shop for it is changing. From AI-assisted design tools and 3D printing to virtual try-ons and real-time previews, technology is reshaping how consumers discover, customise and buy jewellery. The result is a smoother, more informed experience—one that reflects changing preferences while staying rooted in tradition.

For many Indians, the festival is associated with prosperity, auspicious beginnings and long-term value. Traditionally, that has meant buying jewellery, coins or bars. Today, while jewellery continues to be the mainstay, the buying journey is becoming smarter, more transparent and more in tune with what modern consumers want: convenience, clarity and choice.

At the same time, gold is also being viewed through a wider lens. Alongside traditional purchases, investment-led formats such as Gold ETFs are gaining traction as more buyers look at gold not just as something to wear, but also as an asset that offers liquidity and portfolio diversification.

TRADITION, NOW SEEN THROUGH A MODERN LENS

Gold has always played a dual role in Indian households: emotional and financial. It is bought for blessings, milestones and celebrations, but it is also seen as a reliable store of value. That is why, alongside traditional purchases, newer formats such as Gold ETFs are increasingly entering the conversation. For younger, digitally savvy buyers—and even seasoned investors looking for convenience—gold is no longer only something to wear or keep in a locker. It is also becoming something to hold as part of an investment portfolio. "Gold rewards patient, long-term investors far more than short-term traders. Think of it not as a get-rich-quick asset, but as a get-safe-slowly one. Over time, its track record of preserving wealth is unmatched," says Prithviraj Kothari, managing director, RiddiSiddhi Bullions Ltd, president IBJA. This broader shift is visible globally as well. Gold demand today comes from several segments, including jewellery, investments, central bank buying and industrial use. Within the investment space, ETFs have emerged as a major route, reflecting growing participation from both retail and institutional investors.

A NEW WAY TO CHOOSE GOLD

One of the biggest changes is in the design process. While creativity remains at the heart of jewellery-making, technology is helping ideas take shape faster and giving both brands and buyers more room to explore. "The creative bottleneck is disappearing. AI can now generate photorealistic design variations from a plain-text description, a hand-drawn sketch or a reference photograph. Designers are now free to explore dozens of directions before committing," says Vinit Jogani, founder, Diatech AI.

According to Revathi Kant, chief design officer, Titan Company, AI is undoubtedly a powerful tool, but in jewellery design, it plays a supporting role rather than a defining one. "At its core, design remains a deeply human and intuitive process. What technology is doing is improving productivity, speeding up workflows and helping with visualisation. Today, a simple prompt can generate multiple visual directions instantly. However, we see this as a starting point, not the end product," says Kant.

AI GENERATED IMAGE

AN INFORMED BUYING JOURNEY

Technology is not just changing how jewellery is made. It is also changing how it is sold. Buyers increasingly want to know exactly what they are purchasing before they commit, especially in a high-value category like gold. That is making digital visualisation, assisted consultations and pricing clarity more important than ever. Jogani says technology is reshaping the buying journey in meaningful ways. "Buyers increasingly expect to see a photorealistic rendering of their custom design before placing an order. There is also greater pricing transparency. AI-powered cost estimation, integrated directly into the design workflow, is changing the nature of price conversations."

In a category where trust matters as much as tradition, these tools are helping consumers make more confident decisions. For many, the purchase now feels less like a seasonal ritual and more like a considered choice. And as buyers become more informed and value-conscious, the conversation around gold is also expanding beyond jewellery to how it fits into a broader financial plan. "Gold should be seen as a stabiliser and diversifier, not a guaranteed high-return asset. It can still be volatile, so 'safe haven' does not mean risk-free. Its real strength lies in helping balance a portfolio, thanks to its low correlation with equities. Gold and silver, too, should no longer be treated as interchangeable assets," says Dr Apoorva Javadekar, chief economist, Muthoot FinCorp Ltd.

JEWELLERY STAYS EMOTIONAL, ETFs GAIN GROUND

The emotional case for jewellery remains strong, especially around Akshaya Tritiya. It continues to be tied to tradition, gifting and personal milestones. But as the buyer evolves, the investment case for Gold ETFs is getting harder to ignore. Today's consumer is more informed, more digital-first and more focused on liquidity, transparency and asset allocation.

Gold may still be bought for the same reasons it always has been—but how people buy it, and what they expect from the experience, is clearly changing.

Even as jewellery continues to be the cornerstone, the way Indians invest in gold is broadening. Alongside coins, bars and ornaments, many investors are also exploring formats such as Gold ETFs and digital gold. For a growing set of consumers, the purchase is becoming both symbolic and strategic

BEYOND JEWELLERY: WHY GOLD ETFs ARE IN FOCUS

- Gold buying is broadening beyond jewellery, coins and bars
- Gold ETFs offer exposure to gold without physical purchase or storage
- No making charges, locker costs or resale-related hassles
- Bought and sold on the stock exchange through a demat account
- Increasingly seen as a transparent way to add gold to a broader portfolio

PHOTO USED FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

Access simplified

As investors look beyond jewellery and coins, Gold ETFs are emerging as a more flexible way to gain exposure to the metal

Anisha.Sahijwala
@timesofindia.com

Gold ETFs are steadily finding a place in Indian portfolios as investors look beyond the idea of owning gold only in physical form.

BEYOND PHYSICAL OWNERSHIP

Gold ETFs, which track the price of physical gold and trade on stock exchanges, are emerging as a paperless way to gain exposure to the metal. Unlike jewellery or coins, the focus here is not on possession but on participating in price movements and deciding when and how much to allocate. That distinction is changing the way gold fits into modern portfolios.

CHANGING PATTERNS OF PARTICIPATION

Investor behaviour around gold is becoming more deliberate, with clear differences across age groups. Younger investors, who are more comfortable using digital platforms, are increasingly treating gold as a tactical allocation. Older investors, while continuing to value physical gold for its cultural and legacy appeal, are also beginning to add ETFs as a parallel holding for liquidity and convenience.

READING THE MARKET SIGNALS

Inflation trends, interest rate cycles and movements in the rupee continue to shape investor interest in gold. Lower real interest rates reduce the opportunity cost of holding the metal, while a weaker rupee tends to support domestic prices.

REDEFINING WEALTH PLANNING

The long-term direction points to a gradual but clear change in how gold is held. Physical gold is unlikely to lose its cultural significance, but its role is increasingly being complemented by formats that align more closely with financial planning.

As investors grow more comfortable including gold in formal portfolios, digital holdings are likely to account for a larger share of overall exposure.

— With inputs from Abhishek Kumar, SEBI-registered investment advisor and founder, SahajMoney

Disclaimer: This initiative is for informational purposes only and does not constitute investment advice, recommendation, or an offer to buy or sell any financial product, including Gold Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs). Investments are subject to market risks. Read all scheme-related documents carefully before investing.

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BHAROSA APNO KA

This Akshaya Tritiya, turn Tradition into Investment

Gold and Silver ETFs & FOFs

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- Easy liquidity
- Invest regularly with small amounts

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Scan to learn more

*Respective ETFs invest in physical gold and silver with 99.5% fineness or above for gold and 99.9% fineness or above for silver. Complies with Good Delivery norms as specified by SEBI Regulations. Fund of Fund (FoF) investors also enjoy benefits of hassle-free storage as the FoF invests in the respective ETF units.

An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative

Visit https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMCs and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMCs. If they are not satisfied with the resolutions given by AMCs, they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on https://scores.sebi.gov.in/ SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMCs or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on https://smartodr.in/login.

MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.

Golden Beginnings

AKSHAYA TRITIYA SPECIAL

Trust is the gold standard

A beautiful design may draw buyers in, but it's no longer enough to close the sale. Today's shoppers are taking a more practical approach, asking questions about hallmarking, transparency, and real value

Good, like gold

Gold, a signifier of excellence, purity, and value, has shaped cultural imagination across societies—whether in India, the middle east, or the west

India, Russia can station 3k troops in each other's territory

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

The operationalisation of the pact strengthens long-term military cooperation, particularly for servicing India's Russian-origin military equipment and enabling longer deployments

New Delhi: India and Russia can now station 3,000 troops and a limited number of naval ships and aircraft in each other's territory as part of an agreement that was signed between New Delhi and Moscow in Feb 2025 and that has been in force since Jan 12 this year, Russia's official legal information portal published on Friday. The law ratifying the agreement was passed by Russia in Dec 2025.

The Indo-Russian Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) will allow 'five warships, ten aircraft and three thousand troops to be simultaneously stationed in the territory of the partner country for a period of five years, and if both parties agree, it can be extended for another five years," first deputy chairman of International Affairs Committee Vyacheslav Nikonov recently confirmed to State Duma after Russian Parliament ratified it.

The operationalisation of the pact strengthens long-term military cooperation, particularly for servicing India's Russian-origin military equipment and enabling longer deployments. It also covers joint military exercises, training and humanitarian missions.

The RELOS agreement not only regulates deployment of military personnel and equipment but logistics. The exchange of logistics includes a range of specific services provided by the receiving country. For warships, this entails port and repair services, as well as delivery of water, food, technical resources and other supplies. In the case of military aircraft, it involves air traffic control, aeronautical data, the processing of flight requests, use of military navigation systems and aircraft parking and security. Aviation fuel, lubricants and special fluids, along with restoration of failed equipment, are offered on a reimbursable basis.

It allows reciprocal access to military facilities, including airbases and ports, to support ships, aircraft and personnel. It provides India access to Russian naval and air bases, including in the Arctic, and allows Russia broader access to Indian facilities. The agreement specifically covers "deployment of military formations", allowing for joint training, disaster relief and joint operations.

Lenskart clarifies store dress code after online backlash

Times News Network

The document, widely circulated online, appeared to prohibit items such as religious tilak and bindis, while prescribing specific rules for accessories like hijabs and turbans

Bengaluru: Eyewear retailer Lenskart on Saturday said it will standardise its in-store style guidelines to explicitly allow employees to wear symbols of faith, following criticism on social media over an earlier internal document that appeared to restrict such expression.

The backlash was triggered by posts on X, where users shared screenshots of what they claimed was the company's internal "style guide." The document, widely circulated online, appeared to prohibit items such as religious tilak and bindis, while prescribing specific rules for accessories like hijabs and turbans. Several users alleged that the policy was discriminatory and violated constitutional protections on religious freedom.

Criticism intensified over the past few days, with some accounts accusing the company of bias and questioning its workplace practices. The issue gained further traction after users claimed that community notes or clarifications on the platform had been removed, fuelling the controversy.

Responding publicly, Lenskart said it had "heard" its community and would make its style guide more transparent. The company clarified that its updated guidelines "explicitly and unambiguously welcome every symbol of faith and culture," including bindi, tilak, sindoor, hijab and turban.

"If any version of our workplace communication caused hurt or made any of our team members feel that their faith was unwelcome, we are deeply sorry," the company said in a statement.

Lenskart added that it operates over 2,400 stores across India and that employees bring their "beliefs, traditions and identity" to work. It said future policies, training materials and communication would reflect this position. Backed by investors including SoftBank, Premji Invest and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Lenskart was listed on the NSE and BSE in November last year.

NCW panel meets TCS staff and complainants

Abhilash.Botekar
@timesofindia.com

Nashik: A four-member fact-finding committee in the alleged sexual harassment cases at TCS's Nashik office on Saturday met some of the complainants, company staff and police officers. The committee was set up by National Commission for Women (NCW) a few days ago as the controversy deepened and seven TCS staffers were arrested.

An eighth suspect, a 26-year-old woman TCS employee accused of subjecting a co-worker to "religious harassment", filed an anticipatory bail plea on Saturday before a Nashik sessions court, citing pregnancy as one of the grounds for seeking relief. Her lawyer said the plea would be heard on Monday. "Committee members gathered details and reviewed whether any complaints related to sexual harassment under POSH Act was registered internally with the company," a senior Nashik police officer said.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND VETERINARY SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner,
'Pashupalana Bhavan' Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560024.
Phone: 080-23412767 E-mail: jdfarmsahvs@gmail.com

No: CAH/Piggery-Poultry Feed/Tender/Viva-1/2026-27 Date: 18.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KPP Portal Mode Only)

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru, hereby invites Tender through K.P.P Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible tenderers for **SUPPLY OF PIGGERY & POULTRY FEED FOR THE YEAR 2026-27.** Approximate Tender Amount is Rs.600 Lakhs. Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting K.P.P Portal from **18/04/2026** and tenderers can upload all the necessary documents through **K.P.P** Portal from **18/04/2026** to **18/05/2026 till 5.30 p.m.**

Further information can be obtained from K.P.P Portal and Concerned Officer in this office during office hours.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Fodder & Dairy) &
Member Secretary, Tender Inviting Committee,
Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services

DIPR/CP/211/SPAN/2025-26

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-2,
Dasarahalli Division, MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road,
Bagalagunte, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru - 560073.

No: BNCC/EE/DD/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 18-04-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Works detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-04)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	For General Category Works
1	Development and Improvements of Ward Roads and Drains in Dasarahalli Sub Division and Shettyhalli Sub Division and Construction of Sub Divisional Office Building in Bagalagunte Ward No. 14, Dasarahalli Division in BNCC under CMIDP 2025-26. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1300.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,00,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment (NEFT) Balance Rs. 14.00 Lakhs through BG / FDR, BG / FDR should be submit before Opening of Technical Bid)**
2	Improvements and Asphalting to Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial, Connecting Roads and Other Roads in Dasarahalli Division in BNCC under CSSIP 2025-26. **(Package-1) Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1150.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,00,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment (NEFT) Balance Rs. 14.00 Lakhs through BG / FDR, BG / FDR should be submit before Opening of Technical Bid)**
3	Improvements and Asphalting to Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial, Connecting Roads and Other Roads in Dasarahalli Division in BNCC under CSSIP 2025-26. **(Package-2) Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1090.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,00,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment (NEFT) Balance Rs. 14.00 Lakhs through BG / FDR, BG / FDR should be submit before Opening of Technical Bid)**
4	Improvements and Asphalting to Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial, Connecting Roads and Other Roads in Yeshwanthpura Sub Division in Rajarajeshwarinagara Constituency in BNCC under CSSIP 2025-26. **(Package-3) Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 1200.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,00,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment (NEFT) Balance Rs. 14.00 Lakhs through BG / FDR, BG / FDR should be submit before Opening of Technical Bid)**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **30-04-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Zone-2, BNCC, Bengaluru. 3)** Tenders must be Submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hours on 21-05-2026. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **25-05-2026 after 16.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BNCC.

GOVT OF KARNATAKA
(HEALTH DEPARTMENT GADAG)
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE,
TALUKA HOSPITAL, SHIRAHATTI
e-mail : amoshirahatti@gmail.com
No: AMOS/MANPOWER-TENDER /2026-27 Date : 16-04-2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Online tenders are invited in two bid system for the providing group d and non-clinical staff through outsource to taluk general hospital shirahatti for the year **2026-27** and **04-05-2026** Last date for submission of tender. for more further information visit the e procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in using this tender reference no **DHFWS/2026-27/SE2169** can be verified.

Sd/-Administative Medica Officer,
Taluka Hospital, Shirahatti

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/30/2026-27

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय-निदेशक, पुरातत्व एवं संग्रहालय विभाग, राजस्थान, जयपुर।
अल्बर्टहाल परिसर, रामनिवास बाग, जयपुर
दूरभाष सं. 0141-2820360 (ईमेल- dirarchraj@gmail.com)
क्रमांक: पु.सं./अ.अ. / 2026 / 8212 दिनांक : 13/4/26

:: ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या- 17 /2025-26 अन्तर्गत संशोधन ::

पुरातत्व एवं संग्रहालय विभाग के पत्र क्रमांक : निविदा सूचना संख्या- 17 /2025-26 (पु.सं/ अ0अ0 / 2026 / 3476 दिनांक : 13.02.2026) जारी की गई है, इस निविदा सूचना अन्तर्गत ई-निविदायें प्राप्त करने एवं खोलने की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है–

NIBNo.	UBN No.
AMD2526A0100	AMD2526WLOB00119

विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने एवं ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र प्रस्तुत करने की अन्तिम दिनांक एवं समय	दिनांक 15.04.2026 मध्यान्ह: 02.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 30.04.2026 मध्यान्ह: 02.00 बजे तक
निविदाऐं खोलने की दिनांक एवं समय	दिनांक 15.04.2026 मध्यान्ह: 03.00 बजे	दिनांक 30.04.2026 मध्यान्ह: 03.00 बजे

Addendum Corringendum uploaded on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in shall be part of bid document. All other terms, conditions and specifications of the tender shall remain unchanged.

(डॉ. पंकज धरेन्द्र)
निदेशक

DIPR/C/6982/2026

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,
No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

No:EE/KNNL/No-4/BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/ 3rd Call Tender Notification No:17/2025-26: Dated: 15.04.2026

Tender Notification-Call-3
(Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Ref : 1) No:EE/KNNL/ No.4/ BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/ Tender Notification No.17/2025-26 Date: 01.01.2026
2) No:EE/ KNNL/ No.4/ BDVT/TA/PB-1/TFS/2nd Call Tender Notification No.17/2025-26 Date: 12.03.2026

Percentage Tenders by KPP portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account TFS. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is **Rs.36.52 Crores.** The amount of EMD is **Rs.0.36 Crores** (by kpp portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **18.04.2026** to **08.05.2026 upto 17.30 hours** in the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Pre-Qualification Bid will be opened on **11.05.2026 at 17.30 hours** and further Technical Bid will be opened on **12.05.2026 at 17.30 hours** and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd **06.05.2026 at 11.00 Hrs** at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 18 Months (Including monsoon).For more conditions and details visit website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL,
No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/SMG/No-96-04/zenkar/2026-27

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TGSPDCL intends to float tender for procurement of (a) 11 KV & 33KV VCBs with CTs, CRPs & IED Relays (b) 11 KV Station type LAs (c) 11 KV 3-Ph PTs,50VA Burden, 0.2 Class (d) 1-Ph 5-30A net meters (e) 3-Ph 100 KVA DTRs (f) 33KV Post Type Insulators (g) 11 KV Solid Core Insulators and for HG Fuses (h) MS Flat (i) Stationary & Cartridges (j) MS Rod (k) 33KV and 11 KV Heat Shrkb I/D and O/D End Term. Kits (l) 7.3KV, 220 KVAR Capacitor Cells (m) Desktop Computers (n) LT Distribution Boxes (o) 3-Ph 63KVA DTRs (p) 33KV and 11 KV Indoor Switchgear (q) IED Relays (r) ACSR Panther Conductor on e-procurement platform. For further details of each item above, please visit www.tgsouthernpower.org, www.tender.telangana.gov.in, www.auction.telangana.gov.in Phone:040-23431360, 1033..1035, 1026

Sd/-Chief Engineer (P&MM)
TGSPDCL, Hyderabad.

DIPR R.O.No.46-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27, Dt: 18-04-2026

THE KARNATAKA STATE CRICKET ASSOCIATION
M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Cubbon Road, Bangalore - 560 001.

Tender Notification

SITC of LED Sports Lighting with DMX Control System at M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru and shifting, installation, aiming, testing, commissioning of existing metal halide sports lighting system at KSCA grounds, Hubballi and Mysuru.

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, Cubbon Road, Bengaluru, invites sealed tenders from GST compliant, technically qualified OEMs in stadium sports lighting projects.

Applicants shall possess proven experience in execution of LED sports lighting for International Cricket Stadiums/ Sports infrastructure, including design, review, illumination standards, photometric assessment, control systems and commissioning.

The details relating to issue/submission of tender documents are

1. Estimated Cost - Rs. 6.5 Crores plus applicable taxes
2. Earnest Money Deposit - Rs.6,50,000/- should be enclosed in the technical bid cover
3. Cost of tender form - Rs. 15,000/- plus GST (non-refundable)
4. Date of issue of tender form - 20 Apr 2026 to 30 Apr 2026 (1100h to 1700h)
5. Site visit - 25 Apr 2026
6. Pre Bid Meeting - 27 Apr 2026
7. Receipt of Bid documents - 30 Apr 2026 before 5.00 PM (Two covers bid system - Technical & Commercial Bids separately)
8. Opening of Technical Bids - 02 May 2026 at 12.00 PM
9. Completion of work - 35 days from the date of Work Order

Tender documents may be obtained from Mr. Syamjith, Deputy Manager, KSCA, (Mobile No. 98444 41684), by submitting a requisition in the Company's letter head between 11.00 a.m to 5.00 p.m until 30th April 2026. For further clarifications, kindly contact Mr. Syamjith.

Sd/-
Santosh Menon, Hon. Secretary-KSCA

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri.
No.:ACF:Channagiri:Tender.C.R-01/26-27-1 D: 13.04.2026

(Short-Term Tender Through e-Procurement Portal)

Tender is invited through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal from concerned, eligible contractors regarding "Raising of plantation and Maintenance of Plantation in limits of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhadravathi Division, Bhadravathi for the year 2026-27", in the limits of Bhadravathi Forest Division for the year 2026-27 fixing time up to 4.00 PM on 28.04.2026. For Tender conditions and further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Approximate amount of work: Rs. 991.92000 lakhs.

1."Raising of plantation and Maintenance of Plantation in limits of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhadravathi Division, Bhadravathi for the year 2026-27"

*) Last date for Tender Submission: 27.04.2026, 16.00 Hrs.

*) Date of opening Technical Bid: 28.04.2026, 16.30 Hrs.

*) Date of opening Financial Bid: 28.04.2026, 17.00 Hrs.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Channagiri Sub Division, Channagiri

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/86/04/104

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट–01
कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
(उ0 प्र0 सरकार का उपक्रम)
कार्यालय पता :– भवन सं0–6, कृष्णा कुटीर व्हाईट हाउस, फेज–2, वीरास्वामी रेड्डी ले–आउट के समीप, कांदुगौडी, बैंगलुरु।

पत्रांक:– 444 / M-6 /88
दनांक 17.04.2026

ई–निविदा सूचना (चतुर्थ बार)

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय), की ओर से FURNITURE SUPPLY WORK AT PHASE-A JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA, KOLAR (KARNATAKA) अनुलागत रु0 146.31 लाख, हेतु दिनांक 29.04.2026 की अपरान्ह 05:00 बजे तक ई–निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई–निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 20.04.2026 से दिनांक 29.04.2026 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट https://etender.up.nic.in से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई–निविदा दिनांक 30.04.2026 को अपरान्ह 01:00 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट–01, सी0 एण्ड डी0 एस0, उ0प्र0 जल निगम (नगरीय), भवन सं0–6, कृष्णा कुटीर व्हाईट हाउस, फेज–2, वीरास्वामी रेड्डी ले–आउट के समीप, कांदुगौडी, बैंगलुरु खोली जायेंगी। ई–निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु0 10,000.00 + GST (18%) अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) https://etender.up.nic.in पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाईट का समय–समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

14001/9/2627

idco | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL)
IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST/48/2025-26
TCN No. 10503 dt.13.04.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. **Name of the Work** : Construction of Block level Stadium (with Indoor Hall) in Kirmira under Jharsuguda District.
2. **Value of the Work** : Rs. 1498.94 lakhs
3. **Period of completion** :12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. **Availability of tender online for Bidding :**
   I. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt. 23.04.2026.
   II. End date : 17:00 .Hours of dt. 07.05.2026.
   III. Opening date : 11.30 Hours of dt. 08.05.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal. **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager(Civil)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-14001/14003/1/26-27/0001

POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH
Sector-30, Noida, 201303 www.pgich.edu.in,
Email- irf.sspginoida@gmail.com

Advt.No.PGICH,Noida/IRF/Tender/2026/16 Date-18.04.2026

Tender No.	Tender Name
PGICH/IRF/Tender/2025-26/17 Date-15.04.2026	1. **Biochemistry analyzer full automatic Beckman coulter AU480** BID NO : GEM/2026/B/7399356, Date : 07.04.2026 2. **Leukocyte filter for blood transfusion set.** BID NO : GEM/2026/B/7406513, Date : 07.04.2026

Details available on Gem portal **www.gem.gov.in** and on website **www.pgich.edu.in**. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any offer partially or fully without assigning any reason.

Tel-0120-245 6728
Director

32001/76/2627

Deptt. of Water Resources, Government of Odisha
"e" Procurement Notice No. ACEDC-CTC-03/ 2025-26

1. Name of the Works : Total **01 (One) nos.** Drainage work.
2. Estimated cost : **Rs. 827.95 lakh**
3. Period of Completion : **18 (Eighteen)** months
4. Date and time of availability of bid document in the portal : **From 11.30 hours of Dt. 21.04.2026 to 18.00 hours of Dt. 05.05.2026**
5. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : **18.00 hours of Dt. 05.05.2026**
6. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid : Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur, Cuttack-753003. e-mail id :- sedrainagecirclectc@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal of Odisha Government https://tendersodisha.gov.in. All information, notices, addendum, corrigendum, cancellation notice etc. if required, will be published in this portal.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
Drainage Circle, Cuttack

OIPR-32001/32174/1/26-27/0001

34001/79/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA,
"e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-Roads-I-01/2026-27

1. The Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Roads-I, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Roadwork as mentioned below:

2.	Nature of work	: Road works & Airstrip
3.	No. of work	: 4 Nos.
4.	Tender Paper cost	: Rs. 10,000.00
5.	Class of Contractor	: 'A' Class/Special Class / Super Class
6.	Available of bid document the website	: From 10.00 A.M. of 22.04.2026 to 5.30 PM of 11.05.2026
7.	Date of opening of Bid	: Dt.12.05.2026 at 11.30 A.M.

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Roads-I, Odisha

OIPR-34001/34034/1/26-27/0001

4001/28/2627

idco | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

ODISHA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
No. 1182 Date: 16.04.2026
NOTICE INVITING OFFERS FOR LEASING OUT PRIME OFFICE SPACE IN NEW DELHI

Sealed quotations/ offers are invited from the interested organizations of Govt./ Semi Govt./ PSUs/ Bank/ Reputed IT or Corporate Companies/ Sectors etc. for leasing out of the premium office premises F-101 to F-104 (For Rooms having Super built up area -1583 sq. ft and actual Carpet Area-1158.00 sq. ft) in Mohta Building, 4 - Bikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-66 on monthly rental basis to be used for office purpose only. The offers must reach to the office of the Divisional Head, IDCO Maintenance Division, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar- 751022 on or before **6.00 PM** of **Dt. 29.04.2026** through Registered Post/ Speed Post only and will be opened on **Dt. 30.04.2026** at **11.00 AM** in the same office. For more details, please visit our website. **www.idco.in.**

Sd/-
Divisional Head
IDCO Maintenance Division

OIPR - 4001/4075/1/26-27/0009

32001/72/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
KHAIRIBHANDAN & DEO IRRIGATION PROJECT, KARANJIA
AT/PO: KARANJIA, DIST.: MAYURBHANJ-757037
Tel: 06796-296144, e-mail: cce.dip.dowr@gmail.com

"e" Procurement Notice No. 03/ CCEKDIP of 2026-27
Bid Identification No. 03/CCEKDIP of 2026-27

1.	Nature of the Work	: Civil Work
2.	Number of Works	: 02 (Two) Nos of Individual Work
3.	Approximate amount put to tender	: Rs.470.88 Lakh to Rs.555.31 Lakh
4.	Period of Completion	: 9 (Nine) Calendar Months including rainy season
5.	Class of Contractor	: "A" Class Contractor
6.	Date & time of Availability of Bid document in the portal	: Dt. 22.04.2026 at 10 AM to 06.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM
7.	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	: Dt. 02.05.2026 up to 1.00 PM
8.	Last date & time of receipt of Bids in the Portal	: Dt. 06.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM
9.	Date, time & place of opening of Technical Bid/s (Cover-I)	: Dt. 07.05.2026 at 10.30 AM in O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia
10.	Date, time & place of opening of Financial Bid/s(Cover-II)	: To be intimated after evaluation of Technical BID
11.	Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	: Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia, AT/PO-Karanjia, PS-Karanjia, Dist-Mayurbhanj, PIN-757037

* Further details can be seen from the Govt. website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia

OIPR-32001/32380/1/26-27/0001

32001/73/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CANTONMENT ROAD, CUTTACK
Email id :- seeccuttack@gmail.com

'e' Procurement Notice No.ACE, EC-I/01 of 2026-27

1.	Nature of work	: Stone work
2.	Total no. of works	: 1 No.
3.	Tender Amount	: Rs.750.10 Lakhs (Approx.)
4.	Tender paper cost	: Rs.10,000/- (**Non refundable**)
5.	EMD required	: As mentioned in Section No.1 of DTCN (Clause No.6)
6.	Class of contractor	: 'A' & 'Special'
7.	Period of completion	: 10 (Ten) Calendar months.
8.	Online for bidding	: 23.04.2026 at 10.00 hrs. to 07.05.2026 up to 17.30 hrs.
9.	Date & time of opening of Tender (Technical bid)	: 08.05.2026 at 11.30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions can be seen from the Govt. website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

All corrigendum / cancellation of tender if any, will only be uploaded in the above web site.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer,
Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack

OIPR-32001/32558/1/26-27/0001

25001/33/2627

eMail: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR
eProcurement Notice for Building Works
Bid Identification No. NCB-01 / RWCKJR / 2026-27
No. 2222 // Date: 16-04-2026

1. Name of the work : **Construction of Building Works in the District of Keonjhar.**
2. No. of work : **02** (Two) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT.
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT.
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-01/ RWCKJR/ 2026-27	Dt.23.04.26 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.07.05.26 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.06.05.26 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.08.05.26 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website: **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/-
Er. A.P. Kiro
Chief Construction Engineer,
R.W. Circle, Keonjhar

OIPR-25001/25177/1/26-27/0002

Golden Beginnings

Golden shifts redefine Akshaya Tritiya traditions

Once centred around heavy jewellery purchases, Akshaya Tritiya is now witnessing evolving gold-buying trends, where tradition meets modern investment choices, reflecting changing lifestyles, preferences, and financial awareness among consumers

'Important to guide children about usage of digital devices, not simply restrict it'

For education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, *rising student stress driven by digital exposure & academic pressure cannot be solved by policy alone. He tells* TOI's Manash Gohain *how the NEP aims to ease pressure through competency-based learning & a balanced approach. Excerpts from the interview:*

How do you interpret rising stress among children, especially with digital exposure?

■ I see this not as a problem but as a social challenge. As aspirations increase, competition and pressure will also rise. Digital devices have added another dimension, but the root remains the same. This is not a governance issue alone. We need to simplify the core issue and prepare children for life, not just exams. At the same time, excessive screen exposure, constant comparison on social media and information overload are amplifying anxiety. Children are not just studying anymore, they are continuously being evaluated — by peers, platforms and perceptions. This makes it important to guide usage, not simply restrict it.

What role do society and campaigns play in addressing mental health concerns?

■ Policy is only one part. Impact comes from social awareness and behavioural change. Everyone has a role to play, including the media. *The Times of India*'s campaign on de-stressing and mental health is important in shaping understanding. Parents must realise that success is not defined by coaching or a narrow set of exams. We must also build a culture where digital use is balanced with physical activity, conversation and rest. This is a societal issue of aspirations and perception, not just performance.

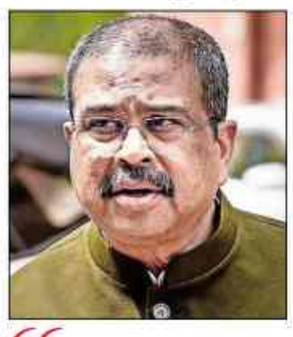
What policy measures are being taken to reduce stress and make learning more meaningful?

■ NEP addresses the fundamentals. We have introduced new curriculum, syllabus, textbooks and pedagogy, with more sports, arts and skill development. Bagless days and full-fledged courses in sports and skills are meant to reduce academic burden. The aim is to move from certificates to competencies. Students should not feel limited to JEE or NEET. A 360-degree approach builds confidence and helps reduce distress, while also giving students space away from constant digital pressure.

What is the central approach to de-stress students within classrooms?

■ Mother tongue. It directly affects understanding and confidence. A child often feels lost when the classroom language is different from the language spoken at home. Mother tongue-based education up to Class V, preferably till Class VIII, bridges this gap. It improves comprehension and significantly reduces stress, making learning more natural and less intimidating.

TOI INTERVIEW



Children are not just studying anymore, they are continuously being evaluated — by peers, platforms and perceptions. We need to simplify the core issue and prepare children for life, not just exams

Scan the QR to take a scientific psychological assessment of your digital habits.

How should India balance digital expansion and AI with student wellbeing?

■ Digital expansion and AI must be approached with awareness and balance. Look, as society moves toward digital, internet penetration in India has reached deep, and smartphones are widely available. We are speaking about Centres of Excellence and AI in education. At such a time, I have observed how other countries handle this — how can we "ring-fence" digital education? If there are any suggestions for ring-fencing digital education from social media, do let me know.

We are issuing advisories, focusing on data privacy and building systems for "AI in education" and "AI for education". Using AI as a tool is one thing — like learning about a telephone. But exchanging information through that telephone is another aspect. We want to be hands-on with both. In India, the understanding of this is multi-dimensional. It presents both an opportunity and a challenge.

To gain knowledge, you need the internet through accessibility tools. If you want to perform big data analytics, understand patterns, or have deep understanding, you need AI. It is needed in everything. In the knowledge ecosystem, there is a horizontal connectedness across all verticals—that is what AI is. But safeguards come from awareness. Like fire can burn, technology must be understood responsibly. Children should be taught how to use technology, not be left alone with it. Every technological shift creates a dilemma between old and new systems, and the answer lies in informed transition through scientific understanding and collective responsibility.

Pahalgam pony union backs QR system, says it aids livelihoods

▸ Continued from page 1

In what local police describe as one of the largest identification drives in the country, around 7,000 QR codes have already been issued in Pahalgam.

The aim is to bring nearly 25,000 individuals under a single, scannable system that allows instant verification. But the process is far from automatic. According to local police, applicants must first submit verification forms, after which thorough background checks are conducted. Even minor criminal records, or any FIR in a petty offence, can disqualify an individual from receiving a code. Once cleared, the QR identity is generated with technical assistance from local "Khidmat" service centres.

In Pahalgam, authorities have identified nearly 17–18 vulnerable points, popular tourist hotspots, where the new QR-code system is being rigorously enforced. The initiative aims to prevent unauthorised access and enhance visitor safety. Officials say verification is not limited to security personnel; even tourists can scan the codes to confirm identities.

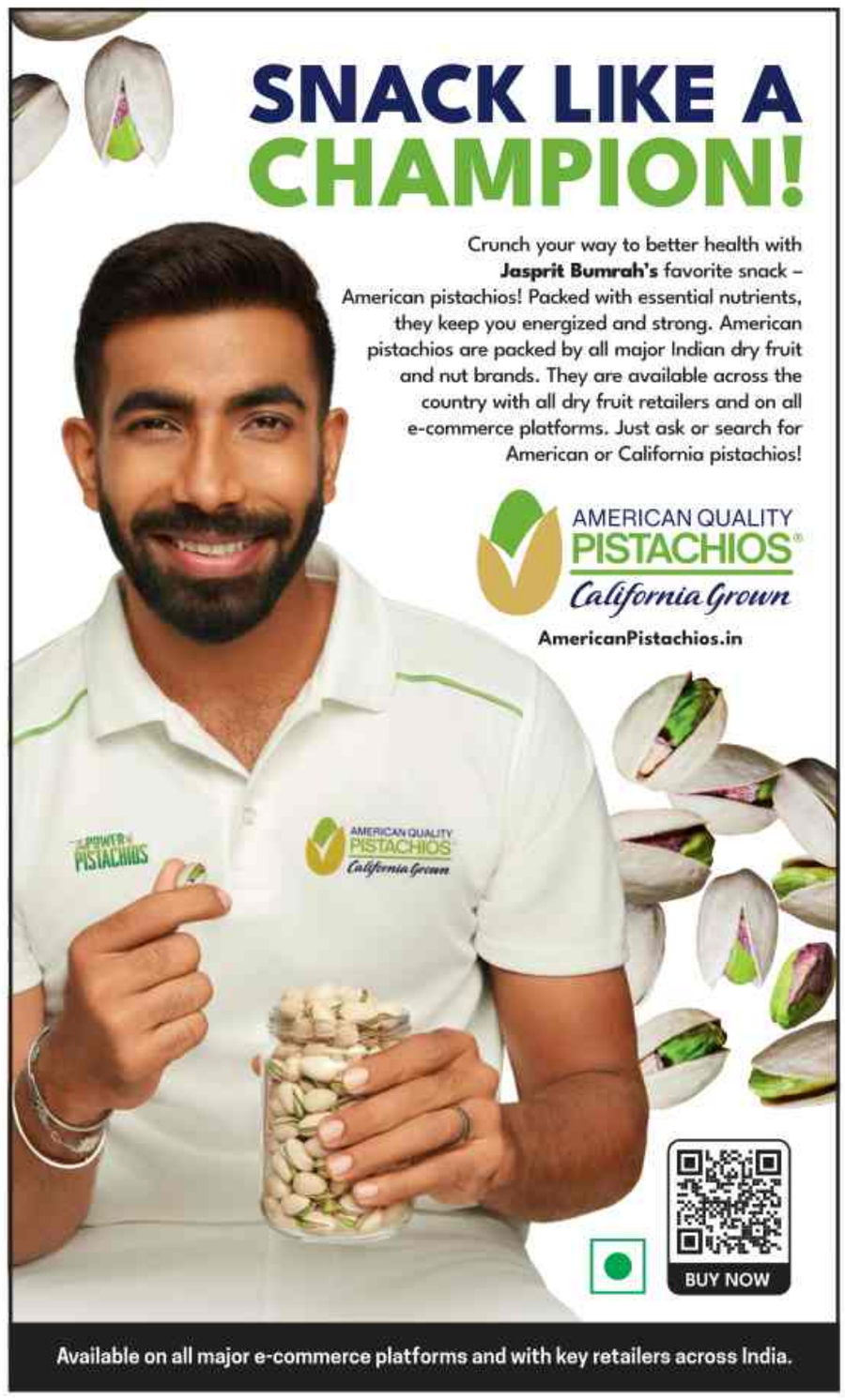
A senior police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the programme is designed solely to bolster tourist safety. "Earlier, we issued physical identity cards to pony handlers. With QR codes, verification is instant and far more reliable," the officer said. The QR-code rollout follows an extensive re-verification of all pony guides and other locals in Pahalgam carried out last year after the attack. Around 20 pony handlers and local guides present in Baisaran at the time were questioned by police, and later by the National Investigation Agency.

HC seeks UP govt reply on bail pleas of youths held over Ganga iftar row

Prayagraj: The Allahabad high court Friday sought the UP govt's response to the bail applications of some Muslim youths jailed on charges of holding an iftar party on a boat and dumping waste, including biryani bones, into the Ganga river in Varanasi, **reports Rajesh Kumar Pandey**.

Hearing the bail applications of Danish Saifi, Noor Islam and Amir Kaifi, Justice Jitendra Kumar Sinha granted one week to the govt counsel to file a reply and fixed April 24 as the next date of hearing.

Mohd Waseem, the counsel for the accused, has argued that these youths have been falsely implicated in this case.



Golden Beginnings

AKSHAYA TRITIYA SPECIAL

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Response.Mumbai
@timesofindia.com

The golden shift

While jewellery continues to anchor festive demand, digital gold and Gold ETFs are drawing interest from buyers seeking affordability, flexibility and a more structured way to invest in a time-tested asset

As prices rise, many Indians who once bought jewellery, coins or bars without much hesitation are beginning to rethink how they invest in the yellow metal. The emotional pull remains strong, especially during the festive season. But for a growing set of buyers, the route is changing. Digital gold and Gold ETFs are increasingly becoming part of the conversation, offering a more flexible and affordable way to participate. "I wanted to continue our family's habit of investing in gold, but without spending a large amount at one go," says Sumit Malhotra, a 32-year-old software engineer. "Digital gold gives me the option to start small while still building exposure over time."

WHEN PRICES INFLUENCE THE PURCHASE

In many cases, buyers are cutting back on quantity or delaying purchases altogether. Jewellers say the shift is becoming more visible. "Customers who earlier bought larger quantities are now often scaling back. Many are also asking about alternatives that let them participate in price movements without the additional costs that come with physical purchases," says jeweller Vikram Mehta.

That is one reason digital gold is finding favour among a section of buyers. Unlike jewellery, which comes with making charges and other costs, digital gold is often seen as a simpler option for those looking at the metal mainly as an investment.

A SMALL-TICKET ENTRY POINT

Digital gold allows consumers to buy small quantities online, often starting at very low values. For many users, the appeal lies in convenience. Purchases can be made through apps and online platforms, holdings can be tracked in real time, and selling is usually possible with just a few clicks. "I set up a monthly amount for digital gold on a financial platform," says Pooja Sharma, a 28-year-old teacher. "It is easy to track how much I own, what it is worth, and I can sell if needed."

THE FINE PRINT MATTERS

As with any financial product, trust remains critical. "Initially, clients had questions about security and ownership. But as awareness has improved and platforms have become more transparent about storage, pricing and redemption, confidence has also increased," says financial advisor Deepak Verma.

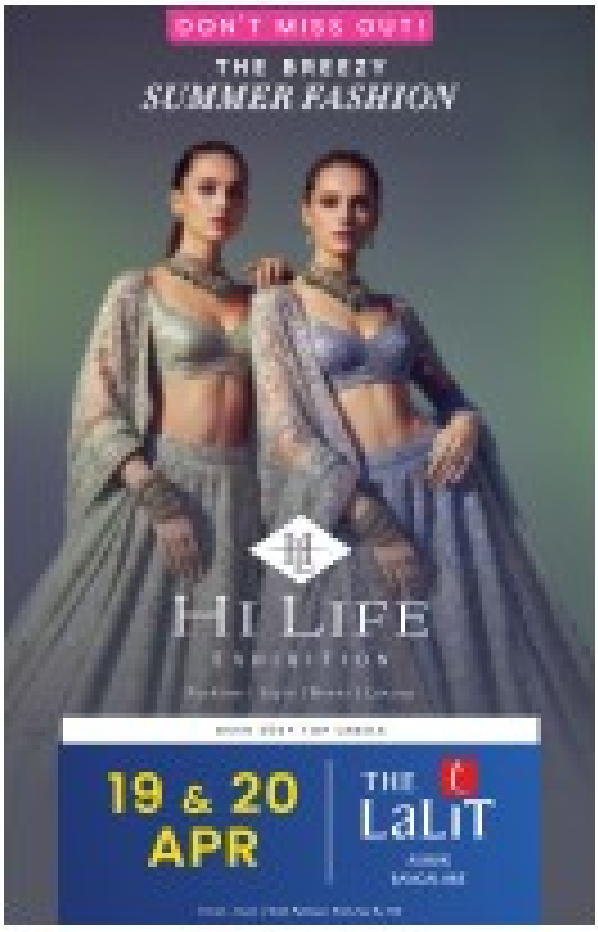
Even so, experts say buyers should be careful about where they invest. It is important to use established platforms, understand storage and redemption terms, check charges, and read the fine print before making a purchase.

WHERE ETFs FIT IN

For those looking at the yellow metal as part of a broader investment plan this festive season, Gold ETFs are also gaining attention alongside digital gold and physical purchases. "Instead of treating it as a symbolic purchase, investors should align gold allocation with portfolio strategy," says Ankur Thakore, chief business officer, HSBC Mutual Fund. He says there are a few key things investors should keep in mind while evaluating Gold ETFs. One is tracking error, which shows how closely the ETF mirrors gold prices. A lower tracking error is generally better. Another is the expense ratio, since even small differences can affect returns over a long holding period. Liquidity, or trading volumes, also matters, as higher liquidity usually means easier buying and selling with tighter bid-ask spreads. Investors should also check whether the ETF is backed by physical gold of high purity. Just as important is how it fits within the larger portfolio. A 5–10 per cent allocation is often seen as useful for diversification, especially during periods of market volatility or broader uncertainty. Thakore adds that the metal should not be seen as a return-maximising play. "It should be viewed as a risk-balancing component in a portfolio. Akshaya Tritiya can be a starting point, but disciplined allocation and the right investment vehicle ultimately drive outcomes," he says.

Gold ETFs may not replace the emotional pull of jewellery or coins, but they are giving today's buyers more ways to participate—options that are more flexible, accessible and aligned with the way people manage their money today.

Disclaimer: This initiative is for informational purposes only and does not constitute investment advice, recommendation, or an offer to buy or sell any financial product, including Gold Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs). Investments are subject to market risks. Read all scheme-related documents carefully before investing.



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स्वच्छता जल एवं सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य परियोजना

क्रमांक: एफ( )//निविदा/निदे/स्वच्छ/2026-27/949-993 दिनांक: 17.04.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE :- 03/2026-27 04/2026-27/ 05/2026-27

NIB :- SWP2627A0007, SWP2627A0008, SWP2627A0009,
UBN :- SWP2627WSOB00029 TO SWP2627WSOB00071,
SWP2627GLRC00071,SWP2627GLRC00072

जनजाति क्षेत्रीय विकास विभाग अन्तर्गत स्वच्छ परियोजना के मार्फत धरती आबा जनजातीय ग्राम उत्कर्ष अभियान (DAJGUA) के अंतर्गत वर्ष में अनुमोदित जनजातीय बालक/बालिका छात्रावास/ आवासीय विद्यालयों में निर्माण कार्य कुल निविदा 43 करवाये जाने एवं स्वच्छ परियोजना द्वारा संचालित मां बाडी योजना अन्तर्गत स्टेशनरी सामग्री एवं स्कूल बेग क्रय करने हेतु ई-बोली सूचना दिनांक 17.04.2026 से आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त बोली से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत जानकारी **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकेगी।

DIRECTOR-SWACH PROJECT UDAIPUR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Letter No. : Dy.CE-JHSW-92 Dated : 15.04.2026

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Engineer/workshop/Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invite "Open Tender" through On Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No. : DY-CE-JHSW-92

Description of work : Provision of leveling the surface and drain work in pocket yard at Wagon Repair Workshop Jhansi.

Approx Cost Rs. : 28837758.75 (Two crore eighty eight lakh thirty seven Thousand seven hundred fifty eight Rupees and seventy five paisa only)

Earnest Money Rs. : 576800/-	**Cost of Tender Form Rs. : NIL**

Date of closing of Tender : 12.05.2026 At 15:30 hrs

Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter : 12 Months

For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 826/26 (C)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

HIMACHAL PRADESH HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETING AND PROCESSING CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government Undertaking)
Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002 H.P.

Expression Of Interest (EOI) inviting offers through e-Procurement System Government of Himachal Pradesh for Sale of Apple Juice Concentrate (Crop Year 2024 and 2025), manufactured by HPMC Ltd. (H.P) on ex-Plant basis in Himachal Pradesh.

Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited (HPMC) invites online offers from interested eligible parties for the purchase of Apple Juice Concentrate (AJC) manufactured by HPMC during crop year 2024 & 2025. The last date for receipt of online offers is **30.04.2026 up to 11:00AM** and will be opened on same day at **03:00PM.** The EOI document details are available on the website **https://hpmc.in.** Tenders shall be entertained through e-Procurement System Govt. of Himachal Pradesh only. To facilitate the bidders pre-bid meeting will be held with interested parties on **24.04.2026 at 11:30AM** at HPMC HQ Nigam Vihar, Shimla-2 through physical or **online/VC link https://meet.google.com/cxr-vhns-nkv** in the presence of parties or their authorised representatives.

MANAGING DIRECTOR, HPMC LTD.

POWER COMPANY OF KARNATAKA LIMITED

PCKL, 4th Floor, INDHANA BHAVANA, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

No. PCKL/TECH/DDP5/1/2026/372 Date: 18.04.2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

PCKL invites bids against **Tender No. PCKL/2025-26/SE0006/CALL-2** for **Consultancy Services to carry out a comprehensive "year on year Rolling Plan Study of Resource Adequacy Plan (Generation) for Karnataka" for 5 (five) consecutive years.** EMD Amount: **₹25,000/-.**

The tender details can be accessed through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or **https://www.pckl.karnataka.gov.in from 19.04.2026 onwards** and the last date for submission of bids through KPP portal is **04.05.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.**

All addendum/ corrigendum, or clarifications will be notified through the e-procurement portal only. Contact No.: **8277895837.**

Sd/- Additional Director (Projects), PCKL

CANARA PLASTIC FORUM

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN : U85300KA2022NPL164575

Reg. Office: No.49, 5th Floor, 'East Wing', Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Phone: 91-80-22267383, email: ceoem@kiadb.in

CPF/Allotment/ 05 /2026-27 **Date: 13.04.2026**

NOTIFICATION

M/s.Canara Plastic Forum is formed to develop Plastic Park at Ganjimatt, Dakshina Kannada District covering an extent of 104.28 acres in Joint venture with Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Government of India and Government of Karnataka. Applications are invited for allotment of land for setting up industries by entrepreneurs from General Category, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at Plastic Park, Ganjimatt, Dakshina Kannada District

Sl. No.	District	Industrial Area	Available Area for Allotment (in acres)	Area Available for Allotment to General Category Entrepreneurs (in acres)	Area Reserved for SC/ST Category Entrepreneurs (in acres	Provisional Allotment Rate per Acre (in Lakhs)
1	Dakshina Kannada District	Plastic Park at Ganjimatt Industrial Area	41.15	30.87	10.28	95.00

Applicants seeking land allotment to implement their projects and obtain approval for their proposed projects from the investment approval committee should contact Karnataka Udyog Mitra, No. 49, 3rd Floor, East Wing, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001 and submit online applications at www.investkarnataka.in

The applications submitted by interested entrepreneurs for industrial plots allotment will be reviewed by the Allotment Committee.

This notification is available on the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board website: www.kiadb.in. For more details, you can contact the Chief Executive Officer & Executive Member, KIADB, No. 2,2/1, Kalidasa Marga, 1st Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru-560009. Phone: 080-22265383.

Sd/-
Director, Canara Plastic Forum

DIPR/CP/265/Zen/2026-27

Government of Karnataka

Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga

No.: ACF/Tender/CR-01/2026-27 Date: 07.04.2026

e-Tender Notice (Through e-Procurement Portal)

Short-Term Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 from Experienced, Eligible Contractors for providing Human Resource on outsource basis from 01.04.2026 to 31.03.2027 for appointing and paying salary to Computer Operators/Drivers/ Security Guards/Security Camp Guards required at various zones of Shivamogga Division for the year 2026-27.Last date for submission of Tender for the said works is fixed on 22.04.2026 up to 4.00 PM. For further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details of the Tender can be obtained through the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/52/04/57

Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences, Chikkamagaluru – 577101

(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka) Phone: 08262-295347
E-Mail : directorcims2020@gmail.com

No. CIMS/Supply/Tender/NewspaperNotification/01/2025-26 Date: 06.04.2026

Re E-Tender Notice (Call-2) (Two Cover System)

Re e-Tender is invited in two cover system from Manufacturers/Registered, Authorised Sellers/Eligible Businessmen for operating businesses on monthly rental basis at shops constructed in the premises of Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences. For E.M.D. Amount of Tender, Commencement and last date for submission of e-Tender Application and other details can be viewed in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Director, Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/ckm/ksmca/26-27/09/66

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer Dasarahalli Division, MEI Layout, Bagalagunte, Bangalore–560073.

No:BNCC/EE/DD/TEND/02/2026-27 Dated: 18-04-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Two Cover system)(Short term-Tender Notification)
(Through e-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, Bangalore North City Corporation invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table.

For General Category Works

(1) Development and Improvements of Ward Roads and Drains in Dasarahalli Sub Division & Shettyhalli Sub Division And Construction of Sub divisional Office Building in Bagalagunte ward no.14 in Dasarahalli division in BNCC under CMIDP 2025-26, Estimated Cost : **Rs. 1300.00 Lakhs,** EMD : **Rs. 15,00,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs.14.00 Lakhs through BG/FDR, BG /FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid)

(2) Improvements and Asphalting to Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial, connecting Roads and other Roads in Dasarahalli division in BNCC under CSSIP 2025-26 Package-1, Estimated Cost : **Rs. 1150.00 Lakhs,** EMD : **Rs. 15,00,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs.14.00 Lakhs through BG/FDR, BG /FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid)

(3) Improvements and Asphalting to Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial, connecting Roads and other Roads in Dasarahalli division in BNCC under CSSIP 2025-26 Package-2, Estimated Cost : **Rs. 1090.00 Lakhs,** EMD : **Rs.15,00,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs.14.00 Lakhs through BG/FDR, BG /FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid)

(4) Improvements and Asphalting to Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial, connecting Roads and other Roads in Yeshwanthpura Sub Division in RR Nagara Constituency in BNCC under CSSIP 2025-26 Package-3, Estimated Cost : **Rs. 1200.00 Lakhs,** EMD : **Rs.15,00,000/-** (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs.14.00 Lakhs through BG/FDR, BG /FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid)

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **30.04.2026 at 15:00 Hrs noon** in the office of the Chief Engineer, Zone-2, BNCC, Bangalore. (2) Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **21.05.2026 up to 16:00 hours** (3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **25.05.2026 after 16:30 hours** (4) Date of Opening of Financial Bid after Approval of Technical BID.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Dasarahalli Division, BNCC

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender No.: JHSW-MNP-26-01 Date: 16.04.2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

For & on behalf of President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, Wagon Repair Workshop, North Central Railway, Jhansi has invites online E-tender for the following work.

Tender No.: JHSW-MNP-26-01 **Completion Period:** 06 Months

Description of work: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Pneumatic Pipe Line and Oxygen Pipelines at Wagon Repair Work Shop, Jhansi.

Approx Cost: Rs. 1,05,27,122.75/- (Rupees One Crore Five Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty Two and Paisa Seventy Five only)

Bid Security: Rs. 2,10,600/- (Rupees Two Lakh Ten Thousand Six hundred Only)

On line tender closing Date and Time: 14.05.2026 at 15:00 Hrs

For detailed information about tender and tender format is available at website www.ireps.gov.in 837/26 (ADM)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL, Forest Division, Almatti-586201.
Tq:B.Bagewadi. Dt: Vijayapur. Phone: 08426-281410

NO.KBJNL/DCF/BUD/DPT/CAT./WW/Tender/2026-27/16 Dated:16.04.2026

2nd Call SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-tendering only)

Ref: This Office Tender Notification letter No. KBJNL/DCF/BUD/DPT-/CAT/WW/tendr/2025-26/1584 dated: 26.03.2026

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL Bangalore, The Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL, Forest Division Almatti invites short term tender for CAT Nursery works through e-procurement (KPPP) as per KTPP Act-1999 and Rules 2000 on Percentage basis from the eligible bidders for the work as detailed in table below. Bidders may get detailed information and terms and conditions to apply at website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Location:- KBJNL Division Forest Division Almatti) and in the above mentioned office. The tender processing Fee and EMD should be paid through KPPP portal.

Tender documents may be downloaded from kppp portal of Government of Karnataka.

Sl.No	Calendar of events	Dates
1	Date of Publication of Tender	15.04.2026 up to 5.00 PM
2	Pre Bid Meeting at O/o. the DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, KBJNL, FOREST DIVISION, ALMATTI	22.04.2026 at 11.30 AM.
3	The last date bidder can have access to the e-tender technical bid document in the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on payment of e-cash towards transaction fee as per e-procurement	24.04.2026 up to 5.00 PM
4	Date of Opening of Technical bid at O/o. the DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, KBJNL, FOREST DIVISION, ALMATTI	28.04.2026 at 11.00 AM
5	Date of Opening of Finanical bid at O/o. the DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, KBJNL, FOREST DIVISION, ALMATTI	30.04.2026 at 11.00 AM

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL, Forest Division, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/46/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP portal)

BWSSB invites TENDERS in Two Stage Tender System from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/32/2025-26		**Date: 15.04.2026**
1	Tender for the work of Sinking of 6.5 inch dia new borewell with necessary accessories at various locations of Mahadevapura constituency (110 villages) coming under AEE(BW&PS)-2-2 Sub-division.	Rs. 398.21 lakhs / Rs. 5,97,500/-.
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/33/2025-26		**Date: 15.04.2026**
2	Tender for the work of Sinking of 6.5 inch dia new borewell with necessary accessories at various locations of Sarvagnanagara constituency coming under AEE(BW&PS)-2-2 Sub-division (21 Nos.)	Rs. 232.21 lakhs / Rs. 3,48,400/-.

For the above works: The Last date for submission of tender documents is on **02.05.2026 upto 16:00 hrs.** The Technical tender will be opening on **04.05.2026 at 16:00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Design & QA)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/YC/254/2026-27

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka

4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041
registrar@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601928

No. RGUHSB/PROC/GEN/144/2025-(116447) Date: 18/04/2026

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for PROCUREMENT OF I-PADS TO RGUHS. More details on the Service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

Tender No. RGUHSK/2026-27/IND0026

1	Tender document available for downloaded	18-04-2026 13:12 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	22-04-2026 11:31 Hrs.
3	Last date for Receipt of Tender	02-05-2026 17:30 Hrs.
4	Opening of Technical Bid	04-05-2026 12:00 Hrs.
5	Opening of Financial Bid	06-05-2026 11:30 Hrs.
6	Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/CP/261/AKAR/2026-27

Prayagraj Municipal Corporation

Notice Inviting Tender (First Time)

Letter No. 13/ STCE/2026 **Date:- 18/04/26**

Prayagraj Municipal Corporation invites bids for the CM-GRIDS Phase-3 projects. The tender documents will be available on the E-Tendering portal starting from 20-04-2026 at 03:00 PM, and interested firms must ensure their tender documents are uploaded on 18-05-2026 at 03:00. The technical bid opening is slated for the 18-05-2026 at 04:00 PM. Any updates, corrigendum, or additional information regarding the tender will be communicated via the website/E-tendering portal at **http://etender.up.nic.in.** Interested bidders are encouraged to stay updated through etender portal for any changes or clarifications related to the tender process.

Sl. No.	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Included Roads	Length of Road (km)	Estimated cost excluding GST (Rs. Lakhs)		Total Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. In Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. In Lakh)	Duration of Constr uction Work (in Months)	Tender fee including GST (Rs. In Lakh)
					Const ruction	Mainte nance for 5 Years				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	PRAYARAG	PNN/CMG 2025-26 /PKG-1	जोन नं. - 03 मे राजापुर तिराहा फ्योर रोड से फिन्टो पार्क होते हुये रोडवेज वर्कसाप होते हुये हीरा हलवाई चौराहे के पास तक सड़क निर्माण कार्य	1.05	1546.26	17.50	5047.42	100.95	15	1.00
			पीएम श्री राजकीय इंटर कॉलेज से मेडिकल चौराहा होते हुये बालसन चौराहा तक सड़क निर्माण कार्य	2.00	3420.80	62.86				

Note- Any Corrigendum/addendum or any other additional information related to the tender will be available in website/E-tendering portal i.e. http://etender.up.nic.in

Key Dates

1- Availability of tender document on E-Tendering portal: 20-04-2026 AT 03:00 PM
2- Pre-bid Meeting Date - 07-05-2026 at 04:00 PM
3- Last date of uploading the tender document on E-Tendering portal: 18-05-2026 at 03:00 PM
4- Opening of tender (technical bid): 18-05-2026 at 04:00 PM

Chief Engineer
Prayagraj Municipal Corporation

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, MP&CS, K.R. Puram, BECC, Old Madras Road, Bengaluru-560 036

No.: BECC/PR/EE(MP&CS)/10/2025-26 **Date: 18.04.2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Through kpp.Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (MP&CS), BECC, Bengaluru-36, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, or GBA or BECC or equivalent Registration with/ KPWD/ CPWD/ BWSSB/ Railways/ MES/ National Highway or any state Government Organizations for the Services detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Man Power Services of Solid Waste Inspectors to Mahadevapura Zone-1, Bengaluru East City Corporation. **Call-2. Estimated Amount (Lakhs): 210.00, EMD (Rupees): 3,15,000/-.**
2	Providing Man Power Services of Solid Waste Inspectors to K R Puram Zone-2, Bengaluru East City Corporation. **Estimated Amount (Lakhs):** 250.00, **EMD (Rupees):** 3,75,000/-.
3	Providing Computer Operators for K.R.Puram Zone-02, Offices of Bengaluru East City Corporation. **Call-2. Estimated Amount (Lakhs):** 130.00, **EMD (Rupees):** 1,95,000/-.
4	Providing Computer Operators for Mahadevapura Zone-01, Offices of Bengaluru East City Corporation. **Call-2. Estimated Amount (Lakhs):** 206.00, **EMD (Rupees):** 3,09,000/-.
5	Repairs to Tailoring center building near Kote temple in ward no.91, K.R.Puram. **(Category-Others). Call-2. Estimated Amount (Lakhs):** 2.00, **EMD (Rupees):** 5,000/-.
6	Improvements to Burial ground at Kalkere burial ground in ward no-88, Kalkere. **(Category-Others). Call-2. Estimated Amount (Lakhs):** 10.00, **EMD (Rupees):** 25,000/-.
7	Rain water harvesting at BBMP office at K.R.Puram in ward no.93, Devasandra. **(Category-Others). Call-2. Estimated Amount (Lakhs):** 5.00, **EMD (Rupees):** 12,500/-.
8	Rain water harvesting at BBMP office at Horamavu and BBMP Hospital in ward no.87, Horamavu. **(Category- SC). Call-2. Estimated Amount (Lakhs):** 10.00, **EMD (Rupees):** 12,500/-.
9	Rain water harvesting at BBMP hospital at old Manjunatha Layout in ward No.90, Ramamurthy Nagara. **(Category- Others). Call-2. Estimated Amount (Lakhs):** 3.00, **EMD (Rupees):** 7,500/-.

Calendar of events: (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **22.04.2026. (2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on: **27.04.2026** at **3:00 p.m.** in the Office of the Executive Engineer (MP&CS), K.R. Puram, Bengaluru-560036. **(3)** Tenders must be submitted online through kpp portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **30.04.2026** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(4)** Technical Bids will be opened on the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in in the office of the Executive Engineer (MP&CS), on **02.05.2026** at **11:30 a.m.** onwards. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (MP&CS), BECC

Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority

No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560009
Tel: 080 22341230/35, E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No.: BMICAPA/CLU-01/120/2025-26/111 Date: 18.04.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Siddharth Vimal Jain S/o Vimal Kumar Mohanlal has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No: 61/1 extent of 03 Acre-16 Guntas (Including 0 Acre-10 Guntas 'A' Kharab), Sy.No: 61/2 extent of 01 Acre - 23 Guntas, Sy.No:62 extent of 04 Acre - 33 Guntas and Sy.No: 52/2 extent of 02 Acre -18 Guntas totally measuring 12 Acre - 10 Guntas of Madanayaknahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture zone** in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the layout in the above said land, general Public will get the sites for reasonable price.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands.
4) By planned layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/LC/246/2026-27

JOS ALUKKAS

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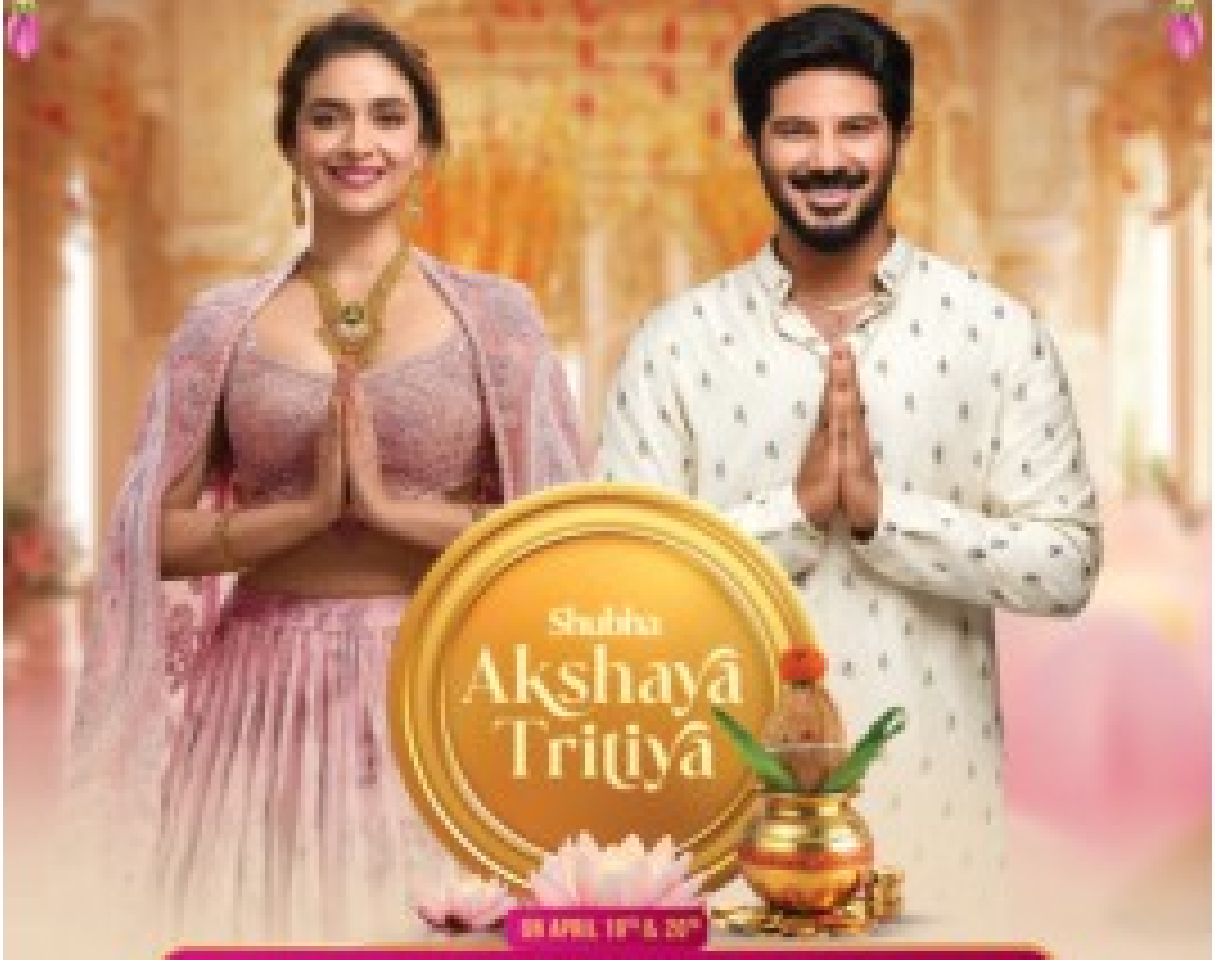

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RAJAJINAGAR, Ph: 080-[illegible] | FORUM MALL SOUTH, Ph: 080-[illegible]
KAMMANAHALLI MAIN ROAD, Ph: 080-[illegible] | R. R. PURAM, Ph: 080-[illegible]
RR NAGAR, Ph: 080-[illegible] | HSR LAYOUT, Ph: 080-[illegible]
MARATHAHALLI, Ph: 080-[illegible] | HOSUR, Ph: 04344 - [illegible]

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Kanyakumari bucks Dravidian trend with Cong-BJP contest

Secular Pitch Versus Hindu Unity Push

Ram.Sundaram
@timesofindia.com

Kanyakumari is the only district in Tamil Nadu where national parties have an upper hand over their Dravidian alliance partners

Chennai: At India's southern tip, Kanyakumari stands apart in elections. Unlike other parts of Tamil Nadu where the Dravidian majors fight it out, two national parties are at the forefront of the poll battle. While Congress pitches the secular plank, BJP strives for Hindu unity, and TVK plays the alternative card.

BATTLEGROUND TAMIL NADU

BJP is contesting in four of the six assembly seats here, while its principal ally AIADMK has a candidate in one constituency. In the sixth, BJP's ally Tamil Maanila Congress is contesting on the lotus symbol. In the other camp, DMK has allotted three seats to Congress, choosing to contest two segments and giving the sixth to CPM.

The relatively stronger presence of Congress and BJP has demographic and historical reasons. Christians constitute about 47% of the district's population. As Christians have been traditionally backing Congress, Hindus gravitated towards BJP.

The roots of right-wing politics here can be traced to 1972 – eight years before the founding of BJP – when RSS leader Eknath Ranade inaugurated the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari, amidst opposition from Christians, who believed the rock was their holy site.

In the following decade, several Hindu nadars converted to Christianity. Politically they supported Congress which positioned itself as the protector of minorities. The Mandaikadu riots between Hindus and Christians in 1982, cemented the BJP-Congress rivalry. BJP got its first MLA in Tamil Nadu, C Velayuthan, from Kanyakumari in 1996. In 1999, BJP's Pon Radhakrishnan won the Lok Sabha seat and went on to become a Union minister.

Congress had its share of historical reasons to gain prominence here. Travancore Tamil Nadu Congress, led by Marshal Nesamony, which was fighting for the integration of Kanyakumari (then with Travancore) with Tamil Nadu, merged his party with Congress in the 1950s, triggering the national party's growth.

In the ensuing assembly election, Congress and BJP are banking on their traditional strengths; both also hope to benefit from the vote-split TVK is expected to effect. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a roadshow in the district on April 15 and Congress Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to campaign here on April 20.

On the ground, BJP cadres and RSS workers are reaching out to Hindu families in every nook and corner, targeting Congress-DMK over "failed promises" and anti-incumbency. They also speak about Union govt schemes and contribution to fishermen welfare including the recent rescue of fishermen stranded in Iran. Such issues, rarely seen in Tamil Nadu campaigns, gain traction here.

Church whispers replace open calls as TVK changes maths

Ram.Sundaram
@timesofindia.com

Kanyakumari: Kai, the priest stressed the syllable as he spoke of nambikkai — confidence. Congregants in a church in Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari district caught the cue. Kai means hand.

Kanyakumari heads into its final Sunday before polling with familiar ritual, altered tone. Church messaging, long decisive in a district where Christians make up 47% of voters, has turned coded and cautious.

A new entrant — actor-politician Joseph Vijay's TVK — has scrambled old alignments and blunted open endorsements.

For decades, pulpits signalled clear choices. This time, churches have dialled it down after TVK objected to overt backing.

A tragedy off Colachel became campaign theatre: a 14-year-old went missing at sea on April 12. Coast Guard searches failed. TVK's Prem Lawrence brought divers to retrieve the body. Congress's Tharahai Cuthbert expedited autopsy. A priest praising only Cuthbert set off protests by TVK cadres.

Women must teach DMK-Cong a lesson: PM

A Subburaj & Tysion B | TNN

Coimbatore: PM **Narendra Modi** on Saturday said a new chapter is being written in the politics of Tamil Nadu, and people are giving a clear message that "NDA is in and DMK is out".

At a poll rally in Coimbatore, Modi said many Tamil women from ordinary families would have become MPs and MLAs if the women's reservation bill had been passed. "A noble effort got derailed. DMK, Congress and allies made it a target of hatred and petty politics."

He asked, "Why does it trouble DMK and Congress to see ordinary women rise?", adding women in the state have a great opportunity on April 23 to teach DMK a lesson.

Attacking CM M K Stalin over dynastic politics, Modi said: "DMK's policy is 'by the family, of the family and for the family'. The CM, deputy CM, MPs, (and) the media houses are controlled by one family. There is a big competition between son and son-in-law. The competition is for who is involved in greater corruption. India is tired of a son and son-in-law, and Tamil Nadu is also facing the same situation."

Have guts? Face me directly: Didi dares BJP after I-T raids

Kolkata: Bengal CM **Mamata Banerjee** on Saturday dared BJP to "face her directly" after I-T raids at the homes of her chief proposer in Bhowanipore, Miraj Shah, and Rashbehari TMC nominee, Debasish Kumar. She alleged that EC had deployed officers with BJP links to selectively raid and arrest TMC activists.

At a rally in Uluberia, she said: "They are threatening everyone. Raids are still happening at our party offices and on our candidates. If you (BJP) have the guts, face me directly... We know who you are. We have all the details. BJP won't stay in power tomorrow — if you don't work impartially, people will take democratic revenge."

TMC had formally complained to EC a day earlier, alleging the raids on Kumar's home and office were conducted without prior notice or summons and that Section 132 of the I-T Act — which permits search and seizure — is meant to be a last resort, not a first step. The party called the operations an attempt to influence voters and demanded an impartial probe, urging the EC to direct the I-T department to take no further action until its inquiry is complete.

BATTLEGROUND WEST BENGAL

She urged party workers to create parallel ground structures as a contingency. "Women should be a part of this. Not all observers are bad, but some are part of 'Big Brother's' extended family and are pressuring SDOs to arrest TMC members. My candidate was stopped from campaigning for an entire day. Is that not legally wrong? I-T department should not act as a BJP puppet," she said.

—Dwaipayan Ghosh

TMC tops women tally, don't preach on quota, says Didi

Kolkata: "Don't lecture me on women's reservation," Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said on Saturday, adding that back in 1998, as a first-time MP, she had raised this issue in Parliament. She said PM Modi's speeches were "full of lies" and that he was "forced" to address the nation because "their (BJP's) fall began yesterday".

Banerjee pointed out that over 40% of her party's MPs are women, highest in Parliament. Also, TMC has fielded the highest number of woman candidates (52) in the upcoming Bengal assembly polls, she said. Congress has fielded 35 women candidates, Left 34, and BJP 33.

"BJP wanted to implement delimitation under the garb of women's quota because Modi could not have won with the existing number of LS seats. That is why he wanted to increase the seat count to 850. This was his underlying game."

Pointing out that the women's reservation bill had been pending for a long time, she asked, "What was the need to club delimitation with it? Do they think they are too clever?"

On Modi's "tukde-tukde gang" barb for TMC, she said, "Through delimitation, BJP wanted to divide the country. They are the real tukde-tukde gang." —Dwaipayan Ghosh

CURRENCY NOTE PRESS, NASHIK
(A Unit of Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Ltd.)
(Wholly owned by Government of India)
Jail Road, Nashik Road, Nashik (Maharashtra) – 422 101

Advt. No. CNPN/HR/Rect./01/2026

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION FOR VARIOUS POSTS

The Currency Note Press, Nashik (Maharashtra) is inviting online applications from the eligible Indian citizens for following 04 Security Presses of SPMCIL, Wholly owned by Government of India i.e. Currency Note Press, Nashik (CNPN), Bank Note Press, Dewas (BNPD), India Security Press, Nashik (ISPN), & Security Printing Press, Hyderabad (SPPH), the consolidated details of vacancies for various posts are as under:

Name of the Unit	Unit wise Consolidated Vacancies of Various Posts
India Security Press, Nashik (Maharashtra)	279
Currency Note Press, Nashik (Maharashtra)	124
Security Printing Press, Hyderabad (Telangana)	69
Bank Note Press, Dewas (Madhya Pradesh)	62
Total	534

Opening & Closing date of website link for submission of online application and fees. } From 20.04.2026 to 19.05.2026

Further, this Recruitment Notification has also been published in the Employment News dated **11.04.2026**. However, the complete details will be available from 20.04.2026 onwards on our website: **https://cnpnashik.spmcil.com under the page "Careers".**

Sd/-
Joint General Manager (HR)
For Chief General Manager

2191815/2026/SHA Admin

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
STATE HEALTH AGENCY
6th FLOOR, C-WING, VIKAS BHAWAN-II, NEW DELHI-110054

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

State Health Agency, Delhi invites eligible candidates for engagement to the following posts purely on contract basis through interview:- **Quality Assurance Executive, Medical Audit executive, Manager-IEC, Data Analyst, Deputy Manager Finance & Accounts, Grievance Redressal Executive, Accounts Officer/ Accountant, IT Executive, Anti-Fraud Executive, Account Assistant & Office Assistant.**

Closing Date for Online Registration : **05.05.2026 6.00 PM**

The detailed information regarding No. of posts, Qualification, etc. are available on https://health.delhi.gov.in/.

Sd/
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SHA DELHI

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0026/26-27

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
A Statutory Authority of Government of India
India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, Ist Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003

Ref. No.CA/28/2026/PGETA April 18, 2026

PGETA 2026
ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONDUCT OF POST GRADUATE ENTRANCE TEST IN ARCHITECTURE (PGETA 2026)

All candidates, institutions, authorities and other stakeholders are hereby informed that the Council of Architecture shall be conducting Postgraduate Entrance Test in Architecture (PGETA-2026) at national level for admission to 2-year Postgraduate programmes being imparted at the architectural institutions, approved by the Council for the academic session 2026-2027, in terms of Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education for Postgraduate Degree Programme) Guidelines, 2022.

PGETA-2026 shall be conducted thrice during the year 2026 on May 31, June 14 and June 28, 2026 respectively. The PGETA 2026 brochure containing relevant details of the Test and the eligibility criteria for admission to Post Graduate Programme is available at www.pgeta.in. A list of institutions imparting Postgraduate programmes in Architecture duly approved by the Council in the country is available at the website of the Council - www.coa.gov.in.

The candidates desirous to take admission into Postgraduate Programmes in Architecture are advised to register themselves for PGETA-2026 at www.pgeta.in. The registration for PGETA-2026 shall commence from April 21, 2026.

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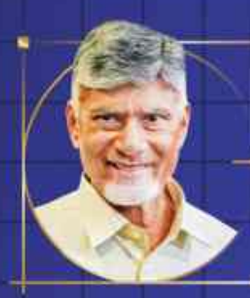
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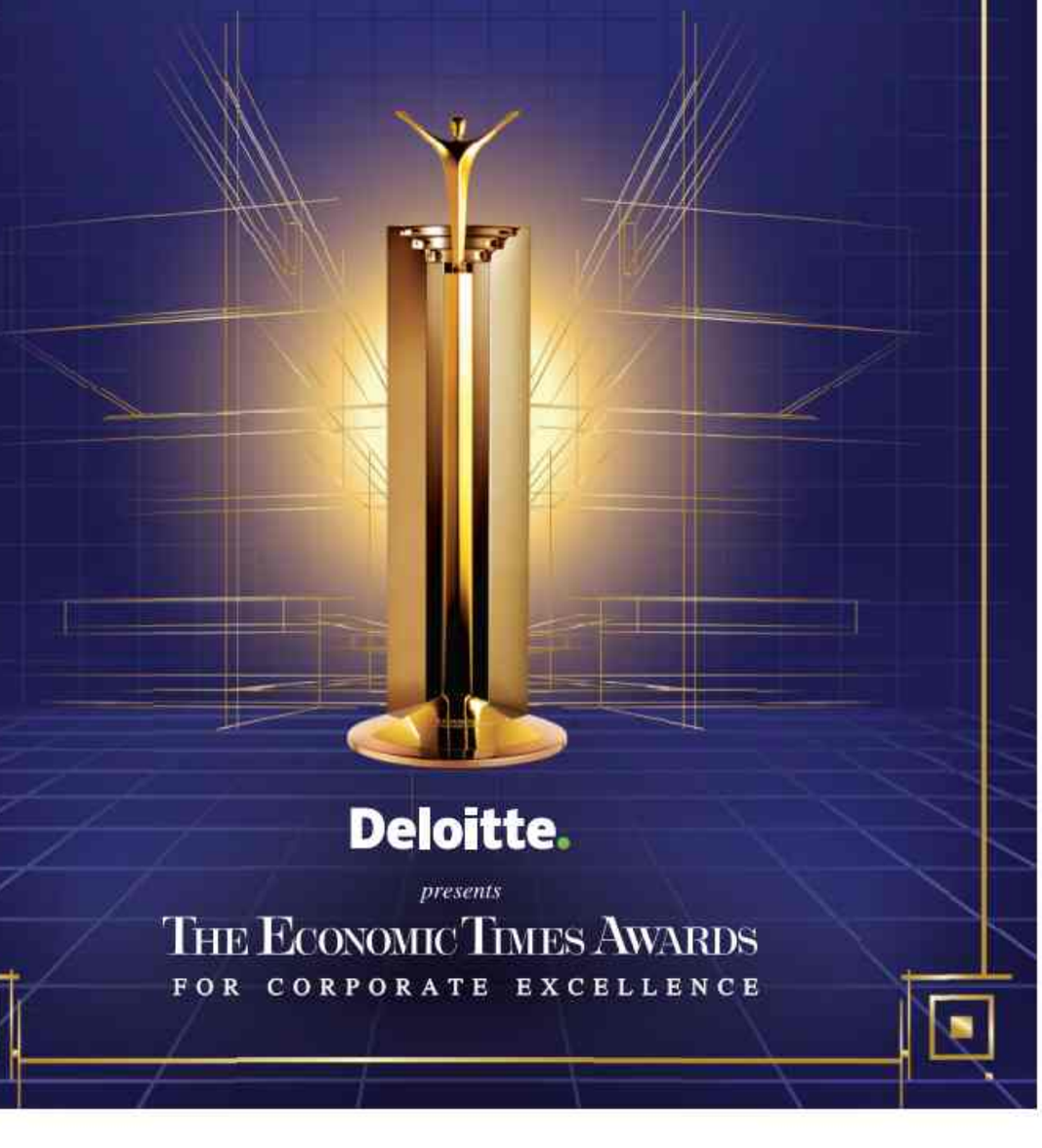

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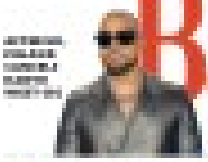

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Oppn should have backed delimitation

SWAMINOMICS

SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

Every citizen should have equal voting power in a democracy. Alas, that has not been so in India. Opposition parties on Friday blocked the BJP proposal for a new delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies while expanding the number of seats by 50% in each state. The Opposition's objections are weak and self-serving. BJP, too, has its agenda but has stronger logic on its side.

The proposed expansion of Lok Sabha seats by 50% will serve three purposes. One, populations in constituencies have changed since the last delimitation in 2002, so a revision is required. Two, the number of constituencies must be expanded as the number of voters per constituency has become too high, by far the highest in any democracy. Three, the legislation reserving one-third of LS seats for women needs to be implemented by expanding the number of seats to accommodate them.

Indian elections began aiming, despite many anomalies, at equal representation for all, proportionate to the population in each constituency. This changed in 1976 when a constitutional amendment froze the number of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies on the basis of their 1971 population. This supposedly avoided 'penalising' states for successful family planning. It also aimed to win the ruling Congress votes in south India, which fared best in family planning.

This violated the democratic principle of equal voting power. In no other democracy is equal representation sacrificed to reward family planning. In many democracies, Catholics have been slow to adopt family planning, so their numbers have grown faster than those of Protestants. Muslims typically have many more children than Christians. Yet countries don't freeze seats to reward areas with fewer births.

In India, that violation of principle has become a new principle. Seat freezing is claimed by southern states as a rightful reward for family planning, not a violation of democratic norms.

The US public revolted against British colonial rule, declaring, 'No taxation without representation'. In India, we seem to have coined a new slogan —'No representation without sterilisation'.

The freeze was initially supposed to be lifted after the 2001 Census, but was extended by another constitutional amendment until 2026. That is where we stand today.

Analysts had expected BJP to invoke equal representation to increase the proportion of seats in the Hindi belt, where family planning was weakest, and the population expansion was highest. Instead, it proposed a flat 50% increase in seats for all states regardless of population.

SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT: Freezing seats to reward family planning violates one-person, one-vote rule

This may seem like a significant concession, but it is also an electoral strategy. Reservation for women is integral to the BJP's delimitation proposal. By denying it the two-thirds majority needed for a constitutional amendment, the Opposition has handed the party an opportunity to claim that female voters have been betrayed. The women's vote is now seen as critical by all parties, which routinely lavish freebies on them in state elections. Having defeated the amended women's quota bill, the Opposition risks a backlash from female voters.

Revanth Reddy, Congress chief minister of Telangana, wants the contribution of states to tax revenue, GDP, and social indicators to be factors in determining the number of seats per state. This has no precedent in any other democracy.

The southern states are undoubtedly among the most progressive in economic and social terms. They have the best indicators in education, health, and fertility. But far from being sacrifices, their progressive social policies have spurred great economic success.

Consider the per capita net state domestic product (NSDP) of the major states (excluding mini-states like Delhi and Sikkim). In 2023-24, the latest year for which data for all states are available, the richest was Telangana (Rs 3.46 lakh), followed by Karnataka (Rs 3.40 lakh), Haryana (Rs 3.19 lakh), Tamil Nadu (Rs 3.15 lakh), and Kerala (Rs 2.8 lakh). At the bottom of the table were Bihar (Rs 60,180), Uttar Pradesh (Rs 93,422), and Jharkhand (Rs 1.05 lakh).

The southern states have already reaped fantastic economic gains through progressive policies like family planning. They do not need additional political rewards through disproportionate seats. The northern states that neglected family planning have paid a heavy economic price for it.

Revanth Reddy says the southern states contribute most to central revenues. So what? The principle of progressive taxation enjoins the richest to help the poorest. Billionaires undoubtedly contribute far more to central revenues than the common man, but is that a reason to give them additional voting power?

BJP has the moral high ground and sounder logic. It did not seek to increase the voting strength of the Hindi belt, as was widely expected. The Opposition should have supported the new amendments. ■

While waiting for battle, Arjuna asks Krishna questions. It's all so very Greek

*After nearly a decade, Booker Prize-winning 'Life of Pi' author **Yann Martel** returns with a novel, 'Son of Nobody', that reimagines the Trojan War through the eyes of a soldier. Against the backdrop of fresh wars, the Canadian writer talks to **Sharmila Ganesan Ram** about the enduring questions of the Greek epic, and its resonance with the Gita*

FOR THE RECORD

You won the Booker in 2002, a moment you once said felt like "being in the arms of a beautiful woman". How do you look back at it?

Did I say that? I don't remember. At any rate, I won't be glib or cynical: I loved it. It was a wonderful validation of a book that I thought no one would read. I mean, it's about religion and zoos, with neither subject being treated with irony or disdain. The Booker meant my book met more readers than it might have otherwise. I look back on those crazy days when I was touring and signing a million copies of the book with great fondness.

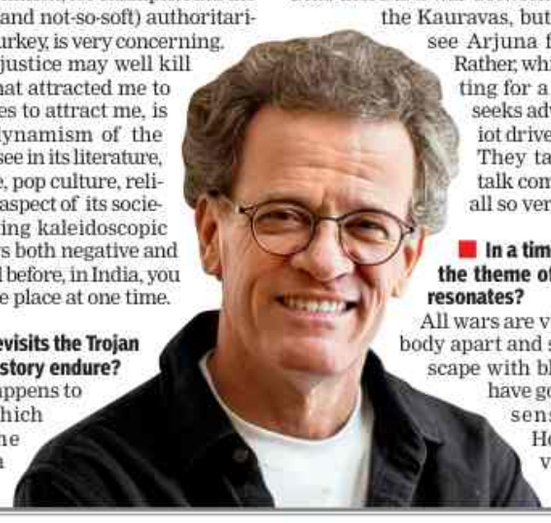
'Life of Pi' was shaped by your early travels in India. When did you first come here, and how have you seen India evolve since?

I've been four times to India, twice in the mid-1990s on extended backpacking trips, both north and south, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, as they say, then on briefer trips later. Have I seen India evolve? Well, who hasn't? The country is now an economic giant. But that has come at a cost — to the environment, for example. And the slide towards soft (and not-so-soft) authoritarianism, similar to Turkey, is very concerning. Corruption and injustice may well kill the golden egg. What attracted me to India, and continues to attract me, is the imaginative dynamism of the country, which you see in its literature, music, architecture, pop culture, religions, and in every aspect of its society. There's something kaleidoscopic about India, in ways both negative and positive. As I've said before, in India, you find all of life in one place at one time.

Your new novel revisits the Trojan War. Why does that story endure?

The Trojan War happens to be in 'The Iliad', which was literally the first book written in the West, and one of the foundational texts of western consciousness. Most wars come and go, but this one has endured in the popular imagination for a number of reasons. Though it's called a war, it was mostly a siege, implying a lot of waiting around—and waiting around is a very modern experience. We're always waiting for Godot, waiting for our flight, waiting to see the doctor, waiting for a green light, waiting, waiting, waiting—and waiting is very trying. It is the incubator of gnawing fear, wild ideas, and pent-up resentment. The Greeks, or rather Homer, made something of that waiting. While waiting, they talked. And in these conversations, they asked themselves questions that still resonate today: Why are we fighting? What is our purpose here? What is the meaning of it all?

You can see the beginnings of Greek philosophy in these questions, and they're questions that we still ask today. In that, the Trojan War has very much the same set-up as the Bhagavad Gita: there is a war between the Pandavas and the Kauravas, but we don't actually see Arjuna fighting that war. Rather, while waiting and fretting for a battle to start, he seeks advice from his charioteer, the god Krishna. They talk, and from that talk comes wise words. It's all so very Greek!



In a time of fresh wars, is it the theme of violence that still resonates?

All wars are violent, ripping the body apart and spraying the landscape with blood. In fact, wars have gotten worse in that sense. Whereas in Homer, nearly every victim is named and given a brief obituary in which we find out where he was from, what he did, whom he loved, and who loved him, now wars are so devastating that we only get numbers. But that's not it. The Trojan War is still relevant because of its ambient nihilism. There were no winners in the Trojan War. The Trojans were annihilated, their city completely destroyed, with only a tiny number of survivors escaping with their lives. But did the Greeks, therefore, win the war? Not really. The Trojan War was a Pyrrhic victory before the term was invented. Ten years of war with nothing to show for it, but the return of one man's wife. And then a disastrous return home to a country on the brink of collapse into the Greek Dark Ages. Agamemnon, the supreme commander, assassinated not long after his return. What victory is that? It's no victory at all. A war in which there are no real victors is very much with us today. We should ask ourselves the same questions the Greeks asked themselves then about the Trojan War. Are we not perhaps on the brink of our very own Dark Ages?

The title 'Son of Nobody' suggests anonymity and erasure. Why are you drawn to marginal figures?

It was a working title that stuck. There's an irony to it. Psoas of Midea's nickname ('Son of Nobody') might well reflect a low social standing, nonetheless he fights on and ends up being the star of a Trojan War epic, The Psoad. I write on marginal figures because I'm a child of the ideals of democracy, in which everyone matters. I have no interest in—or admiration for—the Elon Musks of this world, to name only one famous billionaire among the multitude of unknown billionaires who are, collectively, destroying our civil societies, with untold consequences. I stand with the ordinary man, woman, and child who is just trying to get by.

In today's divided world, what kind of story might Pi tell?

The same that he tells in 'Life of Pi', that it's best to embrace than to push away, that there's nothing wrong with being different, that to judge is to invite judgement, that you can't love by hating. To exclude the other is to mistreat not only that other but oneself by diminishing one's humanity. A true Hindu does not exclude a Muslim, for example, nor does a true Muslim exclude a Jew, and so on, round and round. The more you let go, the more you will receive, while the more you exclude, the less you will have.

'Terroristan' is unlikely peacemaker, but India should keep its cool

THE UNDERAGE OPTIMIST

CHETAN BHAGAT

Guess where the world's most high-stakes peace talks are being held? In Islamabad. And guess who is playing the neutral mediator? Pakistan! Sounds like a late-night comedy sketch, right? But no, this is real life. In a truly bizarre twist, Pakistan has been brokering talks in the US-Iran conflict, something that affects global peace and economy.

For Indians, this is especially hard to digest. Peace talks in Islamabad are like hosting Alcoholics Anonymous in a Janata Bar. It is like asking a bartender to lead sobriety sessions or a bald man teaching the world how to comb hair.

The last thing anyone in India associates Pakistan with is peace. Right from its violent inception in 1947 to now, Pakistan has been engaged in conflict with neighbours right and left, quite literally. That's where the world's most wanted terrorist, Osama bin Laden, took refuge. As did underworld don Dawood Ibrahim. Domestic strife, coups, political assassinations, and military takeovers are all par for the course there. And yet, now it is playing diplomatic courier pigeon—passing messages, nudging a ceasefire, and suddenly becoming globally relevant.

Sure, the first round of talks didn't succeed. But Pakistan still had its moment in the spotlight—praised by the US, warmly acknowledged by Iran as brother, and briefly seated at the big boys' table. For a country not used to this kind of legitimacy, it must have been a big boost. Islamabad announced a two-day public holiday during the talks, citing security concerns. I think they needed time off to just process the heady high! The next round might also be held there.

Let's face it, we are a bit jealous of all the attention our neighbour is getting. Our television media is trying desperately to diminish Pakistan's role. However, flip the script. If US and Iranian leaders descended on New Delhi instead for talks, imagine the collective frenzy of Indian TV channels. The G20 summit was nothing. If Delhi hosted the peace talks, there would be so many hoardings with pictures of the incoming guests, one would think the Iranian and US leadership were contesting MCD elections. There would be fusion menus—Iranian and American food with an Indian twist. Apple pie topped with rosewater phirni, anyone? Ah, damn it, we did miss all the excitement, didn't we? Billionaire weddings and IPL finals are nothing; these peace talks would have kept the Indian media and our audience enthralled for weeks.

Oh well, never mind. Everyone has their day. And let's not forget that Pakistan borders Iran, has a significant Shia population (like Iran), and buys Iranian oil, which makes the Iranians talk to them. Pakistan also has historical ties with the US. The current Field Marshal is particularly close to the US president, having said and done all the right things since Operation Sindoor. Such talks would typically have been held in a GCC city, like Doha or Muscat. However, this time the Gulf was also dragged into the conflict. So, that left few options, and Pakistan lucked out.

Jokes aside, it is worth thinking about the implications this has for India. While the mediation is a one-off event, it does earn Pakistan some brownie points, particularly with the US. It also establishes it as a legitimate nation and diplomatic player. That runs counter to India's long-standing effort to paint it as a destabilising, troublemaking 'terroristan'. Pakistan will build on it to get invited to parties we barred them from. Suddenly, many countries around the world may believe Pakistan is legitimate and a peacemaker. Too bad they don't screen Dhurandhar I and II at the UN.

How should India play this? First, we need to sit this one out. Cursing Pakistan or diminishing its role right now only makes us come across as insecure and having a 'sour grapes' reaction. Indian media, please calm down.

Second, turn the narrative. If Pakistan is positioning itself as a peacemaker, let it prove it. Why not push for a genuine peace process with India and break the impasse after Operation Sindoor? Why not resolve differences through bilateral talks? How can the world's hottest peacemaker not pursue it in its own neighbourhood?

Pakistan may have had its moment on the global stage. But how India reacts will determine who gains in the long run. ■

India's manufacturing story can't be built on cheap labour alone

BY INVITATION

AMIT BASOLE

For the past few days, Noida, UP, has been rocked by industrial workers' protests large enough to disrupt industrial functioning and civic life. The UP govt has already agreed to one of the main demands of the protesting and striking workers — an increase in the minimum wage rates. Like all stories, this too will eventually disappear from the news cycle. But like all events out of the ordinary rhythm of life, it gives us a chance for deeper reflection and an opportunity to change course for the better.

Despite remarkable recent progress in some areas, such as smartphone assembly and semiconductors, India's manufacturing story has not yet caught the world's attention as did China's. As per the most recent labour force survey (2025), manufacturing accounts for 12% of our workforce (as much as construction, but much less than agriculture at 43%), and this number has not changed much for many years. When China was at our current level of GDP per capita (around 2001), its share was not too different from what ours is now (around 15%). But over the next 15 years, Chinese manufacturing boomed, and the share went up to nearly 30%.

Even if manufacturing has not taken off, India has done well in terms of GDP growth by relying on services such as IT-BPO, banking, insurance, real estate, etc. But this growth has primarily benefited college degree holders (and that too not all of them). It has not created enough productive employment for nearly 80% of the workforce that is without higher education. The experience of economies that have successfully undergone a structural transformation shows that the expansion of manufacturing creates productive jobs for the average worker. It also enables other sectors to grow by creating demand for their output and through technology spillovers. Finally, manufacturing is a tradable sector, i.e. every manufacturing industry is potentially an exporter. Hence, it is not constrained by local demand conditions and can catch up faster to the global productivity frontier. Most service industries do not share these properties.

Back in Noida, several of the industrial units here, as in other parts of the NCR industrial belt, are part of global supply chains, often manufacturing for multinational brands and procuring inputs from small and medium enterprises. These firms operate in a highly competitive environment where their bargaining power vis-à-vis their customers (other firms) is low. Add to this, costs imposed by poor-quality infrastructure and regulations, and employers find it easy to resort to wage cuts (or non-increases) to remain competitive. Since India has a large surplus labour force (a consequence of prior failures to create enough jobs), the pressures of the supply chain fall on the weakest link — workers.

None of these problems is unique to India. But the authoritarian ways in which labour was controlled in East Asian countries should not be the way we do it. We

WAGE WOES: UP is being criticised for giving in to workers' demands but this is how democracy works

justly take pride in our democracy. But democracy is not limited to periodic elections. It must be practised daily in the guaranteeing of freedoms (including the freedom to protest) and in the settling of differences through dialogue. We need a solution that works for our unique situation. The UP govt has come under criticism from employers for giving in too quickly to workers' demands. From another perspective, this is democracy doing its work. Elections are not far away in UP when relatively powerless workers will become powerful voters. Of all the election-time measures that govts take to support fragile livelihoods (think cash transfers), giving workers their due wages is the least open to any criticism.

We should keep in mind that the wage rates under discussion are extremely low by any standard — around Rs 10,000 to 15,000 per month. The recent disruptions in LPG supply have triggered a serious livelihood crisis on top of the daily struggle to make ends meet. These are not people who will risk their jobs and incomes unless pushed to the edge.

So, what is the way forward? Despite the uncertainties of a deglobalising world, climate change, and AI, the manufacturing sector and global value chains are likely to remain important if India is to reach middle-income status by the time the republic completes a century. But competitive advantage does not come only from cheap labour. Far more sustainably, it comes from reliable public goods (affordable healthcare, transport, and housing to take three obvious examples), from well-managed and functional (not 'world class') infrastructure, and an enabling business environment. These allow employers to share productivity gains with workers in the form of better wages, which, in turn, increases productivity as well as demand for industrial output. Such virtuous circles are always behind the success stories.

To be sure, both the central and various state govts have been taking steps in this direction. More needs to be done. There are no shortcuts here. But alongside tangible investments in services and in people, we need a new mindset that does not treat democracy and development as contradictory ideas. A worker and a voter are the same person, after all. ■

Basole is professor of economics at Azim Premji University. Views expressed are his own

WORD DROP

SLOPAGANDA

A photo shows the US President Donald Trump bearing a striking resemblance to Jesus. In another video, a Lego version of Trump is being mocked by Iranians over the stalemate on the Strait of Hormuz. Welcome to the world of 'slopaganda', a term used to describe AI-generated exaggerated visuals that aim to spread propaganda. It not only allows leaders and army chiefs

Image: AI

to glorify themselves, but also to 'warn' their enemies of their military might or national pride. Such content, which has amassed millions of views, is particularly effective in the current digital ecosystem, where engagement metrics reward outrage, simplicity, and speed. However, it's also fostering an environment in which misinformation and half-truths blend seamlessly with legitimate discourse.

INBOX

EXPOSED MORALS

Apropos of 'Want to protect...' (ATM, Apr 12), the West's moral posturing stands exposed in its dealings with Iran. In 2023, it awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to Narges Mohammadi. But it has also been linked to the airstrikes on a girls' school in Iran. Rights cannot be defended selectively, nor can dignity be upheld through destruction.

—**Harsh Pawaria,** Rohtak

Email your letters to the editor at *sunday.times@timesofindia.com* with 'Sunday Mailbox' in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

No clear Vijaypath, but TVK could test TN's bipolar politics

BIG MOOD

RAHUL VERMA

Among the four states and one Union Territory that have voted or are voting this month, Tamil Nadu is probably the most difficult to assess. The competition in other states is between familiar players, but the entry of actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) adds a big unknown to the equation.

Is Tamil Nadu's electoral arena, defined by the dominance of the DMK and the AIADMK as two nodes, in a moment of transition? The immediate temptation is to see Vijay as part of Tamil Nadu's long tradition of cinema-to-politics transitions, seen in figures such as M G Ramachandran, J Jayalalithaa, and, more recently, Vijayakanth, as well as Chiranjeevi and Pawan Kalyan in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. But it is more important to understand how his presence may be reshaping the competitive equilibrium of state politics. The 2021 elections happened in the shadow of J Jayalalithaa and M Karunanidhi's deaths, the two emotional anchors sustaining the bipolarity of this system. It is into this opening that Vijay has stepped in.

Besides the comparisons with past cinema crossovers, some are also asking whether Vijay might meet the same fate as Prashant Kishor in the 2025 Bihar assembly elections.

Kishor, like Vijay, positioned himself as an outsider promising systemic change. He sought to transcend deep-seated political cleavages and appeal directly to voters disillusioned with existing parties. Yet, his Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) struggled to convert visibility into electoral traction. To be sure, Vijay brings mass popularity and a pre-existing cultural connection with voters. His films, often laced with anti-establishment messaging, have cultivated a constituency that sees him as an outsider capable of disrupting entrenched elites.

Opinion polls in the past few months have given varying estimates of his party's popularity — some indicating around a quarter of voters and others indicating half of that. However, these polls have been consistent on the support base, which is largely urban and semi-urban youth, sections of the lower middle class, women, a segment of Christians and Muslims, and those generally disillusioned with both DMK and AIADMK.

The history of Tamil Nadu politics offers a cautionary tale in the form of Vijayakanth. When Vijayakanth launched the DMDK in the mid-2000s, he too was seen as a disruptor. In the 2006 assembly elections, DMDK secured a significant vote share, and by 2011, as part of the AIADMK alliance, it won enough seats to even become the principal opposition party. However, DMDK declined from an 8.4% vote share in 2006 to 2.4% in 2016, and eventually to an irrelevant 0.43% in 2021.

Whether TVK will follow DMDK's trajectory is a moot question at this moment. Vijay's appeal is qualitatively different from Vijayakanth, but whose chances will his success hurt more?

The answer is not straightforward. Some believe the AIADMK-led bloc may be more vulnerable because Vijay's appeal overlaps more with the anti-incumbent, floating voters who might otherwise oscillate between the DMK and AIADMK alliances depending on context. They further argue that in the absence of a figure like Jayalalithaa, Vijay's outsider appeal and anti-establishment rhetoric may resonate particularly with disillusioned AIADMK supporters.

At the same time, DMK is not immune. In 2021, the difference between AIADMK and DMK was relatively narrow in terms of vote share. AIADMK did not underperform as much as was expected. Subsequent realignments and consolidation of different factions under the leadership of EPS or Edappadi Palaniswami, including the return of T T V Dhinakaran to the AIADMK fold, may also have some bearing on electoral arithmetic in specific regions. Such shifts could help consolidate sections of the vote base that had previously been fragmented. Furthermore, the anti-incumbent sentiment over employment, cost of living and local infrastructure, among other things, creates openings for TVK to make inroads. Vijay's non-ideological messaging allows him to attract fence-sitters across party lines, without antagonising any group, especially those DMK voters who may not be still willing to cross the ideological line. In closely contested constituencies, particularly in semi-urban pockets, even a small erosion of DMK support could have a far-reaching effect.

OUTSIDER APPEAL: Vijay's non-ideological messaging may allow him to attract fence-sitters across party lines

However, popularity alone can take TVK so far. A party requires booth-level presence, cadre mobilisation, and credible local candidates. Tamil Nadu's political system remains deeply structured by party organisations, welfare networks, and alliance arithmetic. Moreover, the logic of bipolar competition exerts its own pressure. As elections approach, voters often revert to strategic calculations, choosing between the two alliances most likely to form the govt. The results on May 4 will show whether Vijay's star power can translate into political power and breach TN's entrenched duopoly. ■

Verma is Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. Views expressed are personal

GOLD AND DIAMOND JEWELLERY OFFERS

MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS

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JOYALUKKAS

[illegible]

CARATLANE

[illegible]

KISNA DIAMOND & GOLD JEWELLERY

[illegible]

SENCO GOLD & DIAMONDS

[illegible]

INDRIYA JEWELLERY

[illegible]

BLUESTONE

[illegible]

KALYAN JEWELLERS

[illegible]

PMJ JEWELS

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NDA looks to spin LS defeat into win with women voters

BJP Women Hit Streets As Allies Mount Southern Offensive Plank

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As dust settles on the setback govt suffered in Lok Sabha, where its bill to amend women reservation law by 2029 with a hike of 50% seats in the House was defeated by opposition, NDA is not exactly licking its wound and is instead looking at it as an opening to burnish its pro-women credential and take the fight to its rivals, including in southern India where the opposition is in power in all states barring Andhra Pradesh.

BJP women workers burn an effigy during a protest march towards the residence of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi, Saturday

PM Narendra Modi-headed govt has in the past shown willingness to cut its losses when its legislative moves faced political headwinds, as was the case with farm laws, which were passed by Parliament but repealed by govt in 2021 due to unrelenting protest from a section of farmers. Similarly, govt allowed its bill to amend the UPA-era land acquisition law to lapse in its first term amid apprehensions that it ran the risk of being seen as pro-corporate. They sensed no such risk when the call was taken to persevere with Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill despite unmistakable signs that, contrary to govt manager's initial estimates, Congress and TMC would not break ranks with the DMK.

The bills eventually faced defeat in Lok Sabha.

Of course, with opposition framing the delimitation as a conspiracy against southern states, some in the party feel that DMK would milk the charge and seek to turn attention away from its vulnerabilities on crime and corruption. But they did not foresee any large-scale damage, and beyond Tamil Nadu.

The dominant view within BJP and its allies acknowledges that the failure has caused an embarrassment, given opposition a rare moment to celebrate, but they remain confident that the setback can be repurposed into an opportunity to deepen the alliance's connect with women voters, who have, in any case, in many states shown a preference for them for reasons ranging from targeted welfare schemes to cash assistance and even law and order, as seen in a string of assembly elections. "There would have been gains if the bills had gone through, but failure does not spell loss," a NDA functionary said.

With regard to south, the feeling is Modi and home minister Amit Shah with their categorical assurance were also able to send out the message BJP would ensure justice to south India in delimitation, and strong show of support from its southern allies like TDP, JDS and AIADMK underscored the issue is not going to be seen through DMK's prism alone.

Modi was quick off the blocks as he raided DMK's turf in Tamil Nadu a day after the bill was defeated and took it head-on. DMK cannot cover its black deeds by wearing black clothes, he said at a public rally, charging the regional party with derailing the noble effort. A family-run party like DMK will not want other women to gain political power, he said.

With NDA already hitting the streets against opposition parties for defeating the constitution amendment bill, he is learnt to have said at the Cabinet meeting on Saturday that they will have to pay a political price and called for countering their narrative built around alleged discrimination against southern states and delimitation of constituencies to suit the governing alliance.

In Delhi, women members of BJP, including Union minister Raksha Khadse, marched to Rahul Gandhi's residence but were detained midway as the party and its allies seek to put Congress and other members of the INDIA bloc on the defensive.

"We did lose in numbers but our case is that we lost for a good cause," a BJP member said, claiming that it was always a "win-win" situation for the party.

This time round, opposition too has moved to present its case in public, evidenced by a presser from Congress' Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who has emerged as one of the more articulate voices of her party in Parliament, as she accused BJP of using the quota law as a pretext to change the federal structure through delimitation to stay "permanently" in power.

Cong's stance on women's bill reflects feudal mindset: Smriti

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP on Saturday accused Congress of "betraying" women and slammed the party and its allies for celebrating the defeat of the Constitution amendment bill seeking to implement women's reservation in Lok Sabha and assemblies with 50% hike in Lok Sabha seats.

"Congress smiled smugly, thumped desks and celebrated the crushing of the political aspirations of ordinary women. Congress and its allies celebrated the fact that women who have struggled for years in politics, and who were only demanding 33% reservation in Parliament, were denied their rights," BJP's **Smriti Irani** said. Union minister Kiren Rijiju said opposition parties have inflicted a "stain" on themselves by defeating the bill and that they will not be able to wash it away.".

Irani criticised the opposition's stance as a reflection of a "feudal mindset", alleging that it treats constitutional rights as political favours rather than entitlements.

BJP's Ravi Shankar Prasad criticised Priyanka Gandhi over her remarks, questioning her charge that BJP was using women for its political benefits. "Women in India cannot be treated as a commodity," Prasad said.

Modi: Not 66% votes, but 100% women's blessings

▶ Continued from page 1

It is rare for Modi to target his political rivals in an address to the nation, which he has generally used to speak on pressing policy and governance matters. The departure seemed to signal the intent to take the fight to them after a united opposition rebuffed his repeated appeals and later assurance in Lok Sabha to dispel their criticism of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill.

He said the bill was not meant to snatch anything but to give every state, big or small, something in equal measure, rebutting the charge of opposition parties that delimitation would reduce the share of southern states in Lok Sabha. Women's reservation amendment bill was the need of the hour as it also sought to increase the political power of every region, be it north, south, east or west, and state by an equal percentage. However, family-run parties like Congress, TMC, SP and DMK were scared that an empowered women leadership will threaten the hold of their ruling families, he said.

"Members of these parties were thumping their desks after snatching the rights of women. This was not merely thumping of desks but also a strike at

PM Modi said the bill was not meant to snatch anything but to give every state, big or small, something in equal measure

women's self-respect. And women can forget everything but an insult," he said.

"We might not have 66% votes needed to get the bill passed, but I know that we have the blessings of 100% of women," he added, in what seemed to reflect the assessment that BJP can turn the setback into an opportunity to enhance support among women. He also seemed confident that opponents would suffer for their decision. "I want to put it bluntly that those who opposed the Constitution amendment bill are taking women for granted."

Parties like Congress, TMC, SP and DMK are guilty of this foeticide, he said, before singling out the main opposition party for historically detesting quota for women and being essentially an "anti-reform" party which has reflexively criticised every move of his govt, be it GST, digital payment, repeal of Article 370 and triple talaq or CAA.

Congress rejects and thwarts every reform needed for a developed India in the 21st century, he said. These parties betrayed their own people, Modi said, adding that the likes of DMK and TMC had a great opportunity to politically empower more people from their state.

While Congress itself has lost relevance in many parts of the country and is now living off its allies like a parasite, it still pushed them into opposing the bill to blight their future, he said.

He slammed what he called the attempt to engineer a north versus south divide despite govt's repeated assertion that no state will suffer. Congress has inherited its divide-and-rule mindset from the British, he said, claiming that every challenge facing the country is an outcome of the party being steeped in negativity and anti-reform ethos.

He said, "For us, national interest is paramount. But when for some parties partisan interest becomes everything and is placed above national interest, then women's empowerment and the nation's interest have to bear the consequences."

Defeat of bill victory for nation and democracy, says Priyanka

Subodh.Ghildiyal
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New Delhi: Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said the Modi govt must implement the women's reservation in legislatures in the existing Lok Sabha of 543 seats as mandated by the 2023 Act, asserting that BJP cannot be trusted with an overhaul of Parliament in the light of motivated delimitation done by the Modi govt in Assam and Jammu & Kashmir.

At a briefing, Priyanka said BJP can't be trusted with delimitation

She assured opposition support for quota in the present Lok Sabha and said govt can call a Parliament session if some small changes are to be made in the law. The opposition is also planning to write to the PM that he implement the 2023 Act immediately. Addressing a press conference, she said, "They (govt) will put three members in the delimitation commission. Like other commissions they did, they will capture it. How did they do it in J&K and Assam? They broke up the constituencies of the opposition politicians and saved their own (Assam). Strange constituencies were designed in J&K. Who can trust them?"

Priyanka said the fall of the Constitution amendment bill is a victory for the country, Constitution, democracy and opposition unity. "We saw the faces of big netas of BJP in Parliament. It was clear from their expressions that it was a shock for them, as they were defeated for the first time in 12 years. We fight harder and stand together and we will hopefully be able to push through much more than we do," she said. Priyanka said the move to increase the size of Lok Sabha to 850 implies that men are trying to reserve their seats from being allocated to women's quota. "We are living in a patriarchy," she said.

Rubbishing BJP's threat to run a campaign to paint the opposition as anti-women, Priyanka said BJP is not able to understand that India is not like it was 12 years ago. "Amit Shah was saying trust us. Nobody is trusting (you)... nobody is taking at face value what you are saying," she said.

The Wayanad MP said the BJP's plan behind the legislation was to arrogate to itself the power to redesign seats as they wished in the name of women's quota or to become the "Messiah" of women if the bill failed.

PM Modi should have apologised for deceitful bid to push bill: Cong

▶ Continued from P1

AICC spokesman Jairam Ramesh said Modi should have apologised for "his shameless, deceitful attempts to push through a devious delimitation proposal in the name of women. His 'niyat' (intent) is anything but saaf (clean).

It is poisonous." Ramesh said Modi should answer why the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam passed in Sept 2023 was notified late night April 16, after a delay of 30 months.

"His talking of mahila samman is sheer hypocrisy given the way he has conducted himself throughout his life. What the PM attempted in the Lok Sabha yesterday — a weakening of our democracy and our federalism — was exactly the sort of attack on the Constitution that was anticipated when the PM called for '400 paar' in the run-up to the 2024 LS elections," Ramesh said.

The AICC spokesman said the PM's "attempts to invoke the legacy of the Constitution-makers only induces a revulsion at his dishonesty".

He also rubbished the PM's claims that Congress had opposed the Jan Dhan-Aadhar-Mobile and GST, arguing that both the policies are "entirely Congress creations".

"The PM ended his speech by saying there was a 'waqt ka intezaar' for women's reservation. There is no need for a 'muhurat' to give India's women their due. Congress challenges the PM to move a bill in the Parliament tomorrow to implement women's reservation within the existing set up of the Lok Sabha," Ramesh said.

Goa court jails man for rape after survivor testifies from abroad via video conference

Murari.Shetye@timesofindia.com

Panaji: A Goa court has sentenced a married man to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for rape after securing recently a rare conviction built on cross-border testimony, with the survivor deposing via video conference from an Indian embassy in a West Asian country.

Taufiq Kotur from Baina in south Goa was found guilty of raping a woman on the false pretext of marriage and repeatedly sexually abusing her. Case dates back to 2015-16, when the survivor was working as a salesgirl in a shop. Court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000, to be paid to the survivor as compensation.

Prosecution overcame a key hurdle in rape trials — absence of survivors who move abroad — by coordinating with the ministry of external affairs, Goa govt and an Indian mission in West Asia to record testimony remotely. The survivor was examined as a witness while overseas, with deposition conducted through video conferencing from embassy premises.

"We commend the achievement in Goa's criminal justice system with the first conviction secured through cross-border victim deposition via video conferencing," said Emidio Pinho, in-charge of the victim assistance unit (VAU), which acted as nodal coordinator for the Pocso special court.

Class 8 girl abducted, gang-raped in MP; 2 held

Bhopal: A 13-year-old Class 8 student returning home after school was abducted, confined to a room, and gangraped by two men, including a history-sheeter, in a village in Madhya Pradesh's Maihar district on Friday. Both accused have been arrested.

The girl had gone to her school, 100 metres from her house, as usual on Friday around 10am. When she did not return home until late, her family began searching for her. Around 9pm, they filed a missing person report at Jukehi police outpost.

"While our teams were questioning locals, a few men started running after seeing police. When chased, they went inside a room and bolted it from inside. The door was broken open, and the girl was recovered close to midnight," Maihar City SP Mahendra Singh Chouhan said. TNN

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client intends to develop the properties described in Item Nos. 1 to 3 of the Schedule hereunder ("Schedule Property") under a scheme of joint development with its respective owners specified in the Schedule hereunder. The said persons have represented to our client that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property with uninhibited rights of alienation over the same.

Any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents thereof within fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice, after which period, our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of any nature whatsoever with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof nor any objections to the development and sale thereof by our client jointly with the owners specified hereunder.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties being agricultural lands as specified in the table below, totally measuring 3 Acres, situated in Doddacheemanahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District:

No.	Survey Number	Extent	Name of the Owner	Boundaries			
				East	West	North	South
01.	133/2	1 Acre	Shri. T. S. Prabhudas, son of Late T. Shikamani	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 201 & 153/2	Land bearing SurveyNo. 104 belonging to Shri. Rajanna	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 130/1 & 129	Land bearing Survey No. 133/3
02.	153/2	1 Acre	Shri. Johan T. S, son of Late T. Shikamani	Road	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 133/1, 133/2 & 133/3	Land bearing Survey No. 201	Land bearing Survey No. 153/1
03.	104	1 Acre	Shri. Nanjappa, son of Shri. Annappa	Land bearing Survey No. 153/1	Land comprised in Survey No. 104 belonging to Shri. Doddamuniyappa	Land bearing Survey No. 133/1	Land comprised in Survey No. 104

Sd./- A. Supreeth, Partner
Allied Law Practices, Advocates
1/1, Level 3, Millers Arcade, Millers Road, Vasanth Nagar,
Bangalore - 560 001. **Tel :+91 (080) 2222 0003**

Place : Bengaluru
Date: April 19th, 2026

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99
REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

सत्यमेव जयते

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 13th April, 2026

S.O. 1894(E).- In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of NH 748A in the stretch of land from Km. 136+100 to Km. 182+300 in the district of BAGALKOT in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under subsection (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, **Special Land Acquisition Office, C/o Venktesh L Benkatti, Plot No.L-16, Sector-63A, Near Kendriya Vidyalaya, Brindavan Sector, Navanagar, Bagalkot - 587101** in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH 748A in the stretch of land from Km. 136+100 to Km. 182+300 in the district of BAGALKOT in the state of KARNATAKA

[F. No. NHAI/PIU-HPT/15052/LA-03/2021-22/3A]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

District: BAGALKOT
https://egazette.gov.in
Publication date: 13/04/2026
https://morth.gov.in/
https://bhoomirashi.gov.in/

Scan for notification in English and Hindi

Scan for Notification in Kannada (as Translated from English Notification)

Note : The physical copy of this notification is also available at the office of CALA/PIU/PMU/RO/ED and Landowners may also see the notification there.

SBI

Internal Audit Department, Corporate Centre, State Bank Nireekshan Bhavan, Lingampally Post, Hyderabad-500019, Telangana. Ph: 040-23012139

Empanelment of Chartered Accountant Firms as Concurrent Auditors

Applications are invited from eligible Chartered Accountant Firms for empanelment as Concurrent Auditors in Bank branches/outfits. Proforma for application, eligibility criteria and other details are available in Bank's website under the page **https://sbi.bank.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/empanelment-of-vendors**

Place: Hyderabad
Date: 19.04.2026
Sd/-
Dy. General Manager (HR, Admin. & Operations)

INVEST UP

2nd, 4th & 6th Floor, A-Block, PICUP Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226 010 (U.P.), 91 522-3129570 & 3117976
E-mail: info@investup.org.in | Website: https://invest.up.gov.in/

Advt. No.: 33/596/SKS/InvestUP/2026-27 Dated: 18.04.2026

Uttar Pradesh drafts Unified Building Regulations 2026 for Industrial Development Authorities, invites public consultation

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Draft **Unified Building Regulations for Industrial Development Authorities** of Uttar Pradesh, 2026 is now proposed for public consultation.

These regulations will apply across all notified areas of Industrial Development Authorities in Uttar Pradesh- including **NOIDA, Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA), Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA), Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA), Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA)**, and **any future Industrial Development Authorities** established in the state.

We invite **stakeholders, experts, residents, industries, developers, and the general public** to share their valuable feedback and suggestions to help us refine and strengthen these unified building regulations

Last Date of feedback/ suggestion submission:

Submit your suggestions within 15 days from publication date on URL Link: niveshmitra.up.nic.in/PolicyComment.aspx

INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF UP

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गोरखपुर
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Website-https://aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in

NON-FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

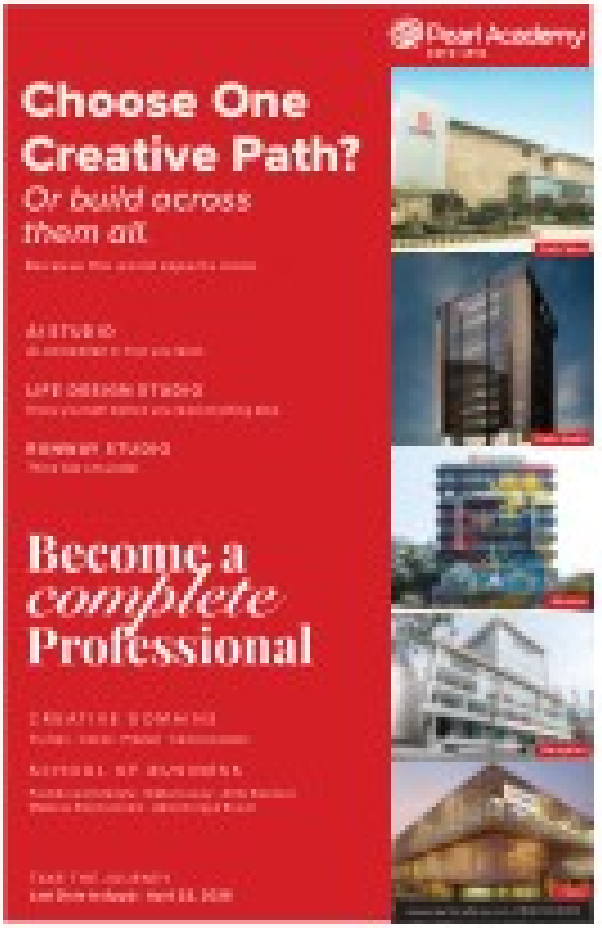
Offline applications from eligible Indian citizens/other citizens as permissible under the applicable Act/Rules are invited to fill up following **Non-Faculty (Group A)** various posts on **DEPUTATION BASIS** at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh):

S.No.	Name of Post	Group	Level as per 7th CPC	No. of Posts
1.	**Medical Superintendent**	A	Level- 14 (Rs. 144200–218200) + NPA	01
2.	**Registrar**	A	Level – 12 (Rs. 78800-209200)	01
3.	**Executive Engineer (Civil)**	A	Level - 11 (Rs. 67700-208700)	01
4.	**Executive Engineer (Electrical)**	A	Level - 11 (Rs. 67700-208700)	01
5.	**Senior Accounts Officer**	A	Level - 11 (Rs. 67700-208700)	01
6.	**Accounts Officer**	A	Level –10 (Rs. 56100-177500)	01
			Total Posts	**06**

The above vacancies are provisional and subject to variation. The Executive Director, AIIMS, Gorakhpur reserves the right to change the number of the vacancies including reserved vacancies as per the Govt. of India rules/circulars. **Application form, eligibility criteria, desirable qualifications/experience, and related details**, please visit **www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in**

All the applicants are advised to check AIIMS, Gorakhpur website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in on Deputation basis for any further updates.

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS, Gorakhpur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Band, bajaa, reverse baraat:

The dads turning divorce into a homecoming

Mohua.Das@timesofindia.com

The baraat is perhaps India's most recognisable piece of wedding shenanigans — a loud, sweaty, and celebratory party — to announce that a daughter is leaving. The question nobody asked — until now — was why we never threw one for her coming back.

Earlier this month, a former judge stood waiting for his daughter outside a family court in Meerut with a small crowd, all in matching black T-shirts that read, 'I Love My Daughter. My Heart, My Soul.' The daughter, Pranita, wore one too: 'My Family, My Life.' It began, as most Indian wedding stories do, with the baraat. Because it was exactly that — garlands, mithai, and a dhol player on standby — only heading the other way.

When Pranita stepped out after her divorce was granted, instead of the heavy silence that usually follows the legal death of a marriage, she was met with a party that felt deliciously out of place for a weekday morning outside a courthouse.

"We hugged her and distributed sweets," recalls her father, Gyanendra Kumar Sharma. "All family members wore these tees...even my niece came down from the US just to support her," he says. "She wept slightly at first and then forgot everything," says Sharma. What followed was a full-blown, unapologetic homecoming.

Across central India, a new loud and disruptive counter-ritual is emerging. Call it the reverse baraat or inversion of the vidaai ceremony that traditionally signifies a daughter being given away. If there is one thing these fathers seem to agree on, it is that stigma thrives in silence. So, they decided to borrow from the visual language of a wedding — the procession, band-baaja, and public spectacle — and deploy it at the other end of the marital journey.

For Sharma, the spectacle had a purpose. His daughter's seven-year marriage, he says, was marked by "many ups and downs". When she told him she could not continue, he did not push back. "She is educated. I told her, 'You decide yourself; I will support you'," he says.

Long before Sharma's T-shirt brigade, on an Oct morning in 2023, Prem Gupta was the first one to stand outside his daughter's house in Ranchi with a band booked for 9 am. His daughter, Sakshi, had spent months trying to do what most people around her had advised — adjust and 'try again' — instead of quitting a marriage of abuse and petty indignities.

"I kept thinking if I come back, people will say I wasted my parents' money," recalls Sakshi. Then she heard the crackers. She saw her old neighbours lining the street and the same friends who had attended her wedding. "Suddenly, I realised it was for me," she says, recounting how the familiarity of it all made the moment feel surreal.

> I kept thinking if I went back, people would say I'd wasted my parents' money. Then one morning, there were crackers, my father, and the same people from my wedding lining the street. When I reached home, my mother put a pagdi on my head, did a tilak, and said, 'Our guroor has come home'
> **Sakshi Gupta,** RANCHI

The walk from her in-laws' home to the vehicle to carry her back was short, but the message travelled the full six kilometres back to their house. When they reached home, the welcome carried its own small rebellions. "My mother put a pagdi (turban) on my head, did a tilak, and said, 'our guroor (pride) has come home'."

Gupta's logic was as practical as it was emotional. He had watched Sakshi lower her self-respect, to make a toxic situation work, terrified of the 'divorcee' label. "My wife and I decided, just as we had sent her off happily at the time of her vidaai, we should bring her back in the same way to free her of any doubts," says Gupta. "And this was also about sending out a loud message to people in a way that when she walks on the road, no one can look down on her."

The genius of the reverse baraat lies in its lack of subtlety. Most crucially, of being watched. And the difference it made was immediately visible. "The same people...neighbours, colleagues...everyone started speaking to me with love and respect," says Sakshi.

It also altered the course that followed. Families began reaching out. "One, families with a marriage proposal, wanting to make me their daughter-in-law...and second, families who wanted advice for their daughters going through something similar," Sakshi says.

One of them was Kanpur's Anil Kumar, who in April 2024 followed the same template for his daughter, Urvi, an engineer who had endured eight years of dowry harassment. Watching the band play, the procession, and the joy, the neighbours initially thought Urvi was getting married again. When they realised she was coming home at the end of her marriage, the confusion turned into a different kind of awe.

Kumar's gesture, like Gupta's before him, was as much about timing as it was about optics. "All fathers send off their daughters with great fanfare. We brought her back just like that so she can begin afresh with her chin up," Kumar had said at the time.

It is a necessary rebellion against the '99%', believes Sakshi. "Even today, 99% of people say 'adjust'. Urvi herself had tried, for years, to hold the marriage together. "I tried hard...but in the end, it broke down," she says.

The tragedy, these fathers argue, often lies in the catastrophic cost of the wait. "The standard approach for families is to wait. Years, and sometimes a decade, hoping it will resolve itself while their daughters endure mental and physical torture," says Gupta, almost brusque in his advice to other parents. "What is the point of taking action when it's too late?"

Having spent years dealing with matrimonial disputes, Sharma had seen up close what divorce does to women, and his act was a calculated strike against a specific kind of social ghosting. "I understand the nature of society. I have written a book called Feminist Jurisprudence in Patriarchal Society," he says. "If a daughter is celebrated when she is born, and celebrated again when she leaves as a bride, then her return should not be marked by silence," reasons Sharma.

Back in Meerut, Sharma's daughter now works with him at the judicial academy and training centre he established after retirement, counselling women navigating similar shipwrecks. The volume of families reaching out, he says, has been "unbelievable".

Earlier this year, Sakshi got married again, and by her own account, she is happy. That she could step into a new life without the weight of the last, she believes, is entirely due to that noisy morning in Ranchi.

For now, these remain individual acts. But they are beginning to find each other. "After the videos went viral, at least two families from different cities called to say they were planning a reverse baraat," Sharma says. Even popular culture has started lifting from their lives after a recent advertisement titled 'Band Baaja Bitiya' borrowed directly from what Sharma and Kumar did.

At the centre of it all is a word the fathers keep returning to. 'Dignity.' "It should not remain only in the law," says Sharma. "It should be seen in family behaviour, in how you receive your daughter at the gate." And if that calls for a bit of band, baaja and noise to make the point, so be it.

> If a daughter is celebrated when she is born, and again when she leaves as a bride, her return should not be in silence. Dignity is not only in law. It must be seen in family behaviour, in how you receive your daughter at the gate
> **Gyanendra Sharma,** MEERUT

The love jihad myth that ignores Muslim women

Sameena Dalwai

We are in Delhi's Prithviraj Market, visiting Mirajuddin, the best mutton shop ever. I go ahead to give the order. Outside the shop, the young man at the counter says, "*Rajdeep bhai nahi aye?*" I say he is coming. While wiping his cutting board, the owner asks, "And where is *bhaijaan*?" I reply, coming. Then he comes, says assalaam valaikum to everyone. They all greet him back and start chatting animatedly. The process repeats outside the shop with other workers and known patrons. He goes there often, and everyone knows him. This is the same man who did not know how to say 'Salaam' 14 years ago when we got married. He is now "kareeb, kareeb mussalman", as our Mirajuddin friends compliment him.

The 'love jihad' propaganda, which keeps surfacing in news cycles, says that conniving Muslim men lure Hindu women away. They forget Muslim women. Maybe they are doing love jihad too? I can cite several examples where Muslim women have nudged their husbands and families towards Islamic traditions while embracing Hindu customs as part of shared family life.

My Afghan friend is married to a Sharma from Delhi. They met in Berlin and returned to India. Together they run an Afghan centre at the university, offering space for Afghan people to showcase their talent, food and culture. When their son's school did not give a holiday on Eid, the father told the principal, "My son is half Muslim. He will stay at home and celebrate the festival with family."

Image: AI

Patriarchal mindsets tend to believe that in interfaith marriages, women will lose their identity, religion, and customs. Instead, they accommodate the belief systems of both their religions. My Afghan friend refrains from meat on Hindu festivals, but she also celebrates Eid with the family

An Indonesian friend is married to a Tamil Brahmin colleague. She keeps fasts for the whole month of Ramzan, and people come to her home for Iftar. She once went home during the fasting month along with her 13-year-old son. The first morning there, he realised that everyone had woken up for Sehri and started their fast at dawn. No one woke him up as they thought he was not used to it. He was upset and asked, "Why? Am I not part of this family?" He did not eat or drink anything and only broke his fast with everyone in the evening. Thereafter, he fasted during their stay in Jakarta.

Another remarkable friend, who married his Assamese Muslim sweetheart, named his daughter Inara, which means radiance in Arabic. She carries her mother's surname along with her father's and is called 'Inara Syed Mahapatra'. Lastly, my beautiful colleague Nikhat just had a nikah and a destination wedding in Turkey. Her Greek partner has learnt namaz, Qalma, and suras to win over her family in Lucknow.

Patriarchal mindsets tend to believe that the man's side is the winning side and that in interfaith marriages, women will lose their identity, religion, and customs. But as I look at the interfaith couples around me, that is not true. Women tend to shape their families in decisive ways and have created a mix of Indo-Islamic-Hindu domestic cultures.

They have done so by accommodating the belief systems of both their religions. My in-laws perform puja for housewarming, put lemons on the car and check auspicious dates for travel. To me, this is superstition; to them, it is normal. Yet both sides accept each other, enjoy family gatherings and the drama of children.

My Indonesian friend cooks sambar and payasam for her vegetarian husband. The Ganesha idol that her mother-in-law worshipped in Tamil Nadu resides in her home now. My Afghan friend refrains from meat on Hindu festivals along with her husband and attends all family rituals. She also celebrates Eid with all of them. The Lucknow colleague has merged with her Greek family. She visits them every summer and appreciates their food, customs and culture. As for baby Inara, she is going to learn Karl Marx and Foucault before she hears of Hinduism or Islam.

Love never gets old. Every generation sees it freshly, lives it freely. In times of war across the globe, it is the only solace. Some blinkered gangs may try to damn our way of life, calling it love jihad and such. But we are not the aberration that society tolerates, nor are we the exotic, strange species that others find unique. We are the dream of India that our forefathers saw at the stroke of midnight of 15th August, 1947. We are the family that Mahatma Phule envisioned in his verse, "Christ, Mohammad, Mang, Bramhanasi, Dharave potasi, Bandhu pari" (translation: Whether they be followers of Christ or Mohammed, or belong to the Mang or Brahmin communities — one should embrace them all to one's heart like a brother.) As humanity expands, our tribe will grow.

Sameena Dalwai is a law professor. Her forthcoming book is titled 'Love Jihad: A Feminist Retelling'

INQUIZITIVE

by JOY BHATTACHARJYA

1 Fauja Singh, a British national who passed away in 2025, became famous for completing what at the age of 92?

2 Which shopping area in Mumbai got its name as it was 'behind' Crawford market, and has nothing to do with a similar sounding vegetable?

3 Which town on the banks of the Noyyal river had a population of less than 1 million in the 2011 census and yet currently exports over ₹40,000 crore worth of knitwear around the world?

4 In which competitive sport would you come across the terms promotion, fork, pin and skewer?

5 In the world of films, who lived and taught till the age of 900 in the planet of Dagobah and is chiefly remembered for his wisdom and whimsical sentence construction?

6 In which building in India was the first ever lift installed by Otis in 1892?

7 In which popular Indian television series of the eighties featuring 25 stories did two characters usually appear at the start with exactly two feet touching the ground?

8 Pointe shoes, around since the 17th century, are shoes without heels and a reinforced toe cap and a toe pad so that one can balance on one's toes. They were specifically created for which activity?

9 The painting Yashoda and Krishna was recently sold for a record ₹167 crore, making it the most expensive work of modern Indian art ever sold. Which Travancore born artist painted it?

10 Only two players who played in the 2007 T20 World Cup final for India are still playing competitive cricket. One of the them is MS Dhoni. Who is the other?

ANSWERS

1 | A marathon
2 | Bhendi Bazaar, from 'behind the bazaar'
3 | Tirupur or Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu
4 | Chess
5 | Yoda, from the Star Wars franchise
6 | Raj Bhavan, Calcutta. Then the residence of the British Viceroy in India
7 | Vikram Aur Betaal, adapted from the Betaal Pachisi (Betaal would be perched on Vikram's back)
8 | Ballet dancing
9 | Raja Ravi Varma
10 | Rohit Sharma

From smashed cakes to broken eggs, AI fuels food refund fraud

As customers use digitally doctored images to game refund systems, delivery apps and restaurants scramble to keep up

Supriya Roy & Sneha Bhura | TNN

A tray of cracked eggs. A collapsed cake. A badly dented ice-cream tub. The images are sent to quick commerce and food delivery platforms for prompt refunds. Only, the damage isn't real. Neither is the evidence.

Platforms have long dealt with some customers staging complaints by adding hair to food or damaging the package before taking a photograph. What's new isn't the instinct to game the system, but how easily AI can manufacture 'proof'.

Last Nov, an X user claimed a Swiggy Instamart customer had turned one cracked egg into many. The order had arrived with a single damaged egg. The customer allegedly used an AI tool and typed "apply more cracks" to generate an image showing over 20 broken eggs, convincing enough to score a refund.

Not everyone gets away with it. A Mumbai bakery publicly called out a customer for submitting an AI-generated image of a 'melted' strawberry dark chocolate cake they had supplied to claim a refund of Rs 1,820 from Zomato. "The moment I saw the image, I knew something was off," says Harsh Shah of Dessert Therapy. "The finish of the cake was too smooth. Real cakes don't look like that," he says. "And the way it had 'melted'? That's not how chocolate behaves." Then came the giveaway. The 'Happy Birthday' tag read 'AAPP Y'. "Flawless strawberries without the natural pores. The ganache was too smooth, textures were missing, and the flowers didn't look real. Honestly, even a child could spot this wasn't a real cake," says Shah, adding that the menace of AI-powered return fraud in the food delivery business is growing. "It happens every week. Not just to us. Everyone in the industry is dealing with this now."

> Even a genuine photo of faulty food with a simple filter can get flagged as AI-generated, while AI images carry watermarks that are easily removed. Video validation may be one way to avoid such fraud, as creating convincing fake videos is still expensive and difficult
> **Ansh Mehra,** AI EDUCATOR

RETURN ABUSE: Last year, a Mumbai customer used an AI image of a melted cake for refund (left); in Gujarat, another edited a cake photo by adding a fly

"Sometimes, people upload a completely different cake from another brand and say, 'This is what I received,'" says Shah. "A friend of mine runs a completely vegetarian restaurant chain, and someone complained about receiving meat."

Platforms are noticing the pattern. In Jan, Zomato co-founder Deepinder Goyal reported an increase in such cases, including customers using AI tools to add fake flies or insects to food photographs. One pattern that caught the company's attention, he said, was a spike in complaints around "smashed cakes" that did not appear to have been damaged when delivered. Eternal, its parent company, says it has rolled out tools to detect misuse. "We employ advanced systems to detect rare misuse attempts, including AI-generated images. We've already rolled out early-detection models and are scaling these safeguards responsibly," an Eternal spokesperson says. The company adds that it still treats legitimate food-quality and order-related complaints seriously.

ENGINEERED EVIDENCE

The larger problem for platforms is that a doctored image is rarely just a doctored image. It sits within a wider universe of digital fraud of users creating multiple accounts to exploit offers, cycling through devices to appear like first-time customers, or disputing legitimate transactions as fraudulent.

The small cheats can add up. "What we are seeing now is micro-fraud at scale, where small-ticket claims add up to a material impact," says Sandesh G S, chief technology officer at Bureau, a fraud detection company. Generative AI, he adds, has stripped away the cost and skill once needed to create fake evidence, making it easier for a single person to run repeated small-value fraud attempts across platforms.

That matters because consumer platforms are built for speed. Refund flows are designed to be frictionless. Complaints are often resolved quickly, rather than investigated deeply. At scale, though, hundreds of such claims begin to matter.

According to the Bureau, image forensics, metadata and behavioural analysis alone are not enough to catch such fraud. Fraudsters learn the rules of one system and work around them.

Ankush Tiwari, founder of pi-labs.ai, which works on deepfake detection, says manipulated images can still carry technical traces. "In synthetic or AI-edited images, one can spot traces of artificial noise patterns," he says. But the bigger concern for platforms is economic. "Many do not yet know how much of their refund outflow is being driven by such manipulation."

Delhi-based AI educator Ansh Mehra suggests moving towards video validation. "A very effective safeguard is asking users to record a video in changing lighting conditions. AI models still can't simulate dynamic lighting properly," he says. "Most people won't go through that effort unless they are professional scammers."

FOOD FICTION

On the ground, the line between prank and fraud is blurring. A casual dining restaurant in Bengaluru recently shared a reel of a customer staging a complaint with a plastic cockroach, only to be caught on CCTV. Restaurants like Nini's Kitchen in Gujarat reported an AI-generated complaint showing a fly inside a Biscoff cake in Dec; another time, it was spilt raita with Hyderabadi biryani.

"If a fly actually gets into food, it's never intact. It gets soiled. The image we got looked perfectly preserved. That's how we knew it was fake," says Ankit Gupta, founder of Nini's Kitchen, which operates 45 outlets across Gujarat.

There's damage even if the complaint is fake. "The moment someone says there's an insect or glass or plastic in the food, it directly hits your brand image," Gupta says. "That's why some restaurants just give refunds immediately. They don't want the risk."

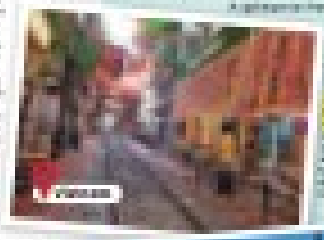
TRAVEL

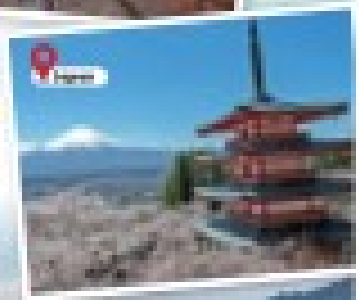
Cancellations? No. Rerouting? Yes...

...towards Southeast Asia and domestic destinations

Choose direct routes, keep buffer time

Book smart, stay flexible





Domestic destinations in demand

Strait talk turns straitjacket: Diplomacy stuck, ships struck in Hormuz's waters

Trump Claims Iran Pushing Back To Signal A Domestic Audience It Isn't Rolling Over

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The US-Iran standoff in the Strait of Hormuz remains unresolved 72-hours before the end of a two-week ceasefire. Angered by US President Donald Trump's social media grandstanding portraying it as having caved in completely to his demands, including surrendering its uranium stockpile, Tehran said on Saturday it was again shutting down the waterway.

Hours after both sides appeared to be moving towards a resolution, Iran, citing what it saw as bogus victory claims by Trump and various US transgressions, including a selective American blockade of Hormuz, said it is going to regain control of shipping movement in the strait.

"As long as the enemy intends to disrupt vessel traffic or impose methods like blockades, the Islamic Republic of Iran will consider that a ceasefire violation and prevent the conditional, limited opening of the Strait of Hormuz," Iran's Supreme National Security Council said in a setback to what Trump projected Friday as an imminent deal.

HALF OF IRAN ATTACK BOATS INTACT

- Gen Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in the second week of April that the **US military had sunk much of the Iranian fleet** and 150 Iranian ships "are at the bottom of the ocean"
- But he noted that **only half the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard's small attack boats** — ships the govt used to swarm and harass warships and merchants in the Strait of Hormuz — **have been sunk**
- Iran's **gunboats or attack boats are small, agile boats designed to harass shipping, and are an important asset of the naval wing** of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, which operates beside Iran's regular Navy
- Compared to large warships, **these boats are cheap, agile, and hard to counter, making them ideal for escalation without full-scale war**; Tehran has used them to block, warn, or regulate transit, especially during tensions with the US

A file photo of an attack boat

Source: AP

Following the announcement, two Indian vessels, including a supertanker carrying 2 million barrels of oil, had to reverse course from the strait following reports of gunfire from Iran's Revolutionary Guard. New Delhi lodged a strong protest.

Iran and the US are now in hair-trigger posture in the strait, threatening to prevent vessels the other side is trying to shepherd through.

Iran has agreed to give up its "nuclear dust": Trump

The stand-off follows a series of Trump announcements on social media on Friday that virtually constituted a victory dance. Trump said Iran had agreed to give up its "nuclear dust", the two countries would work together to extricate enriched uranium back to the US, and remove mines from the Hormuz Straits, and there would be no monetary rewards for Iran in return for what was virtually portrayed as an unconditional surrender.

Iran pushed back, insisting it would never give up its uranium, calling it a sovereign national asset that would not be transferred out under any circumstances. Far from being beaten into submission, as Trump appeared to suggest on Friday, Tehran indicated that it would stand up for its rights even if it meant another round of punitive American strikes, which the US president has said will follow if there is no deal by the time the ceasefire ends on Wednesday.

'Talks working out very well. Iran got a little cute'

Still he tried to put a positive spin on the developments, suggesting the Iranians were pushing back to signal to their domestic audience that they were not rolling over, and there is perhaps an Iranian faction more amenable to a deal than the hardline leadership. "We have very good conversations going on. It's working out very well. They got a little cute, as they have been doing for 47 years," Trump told reporters on Air Force One as he returned from a political event in Arizona.

The US president is now battling on several fronts, including a fight he has picked with the Pope and with Nato, forcing him back to the political bully pulpit in the US, where he faces a headwind ahead of the Nov midterm elections. He even did some Bible-thumping on Friday, recording a passage from the Old Testament for a national Bible reading event to mark the 250th anniversary of the formation of "one Nation under God", although the Founding Fathers did not explicitly designate it as a Christian country.

Trump has a sketchy relationship with the scriptures, mocked once for holding a Bible upside down in front of a church, and commercialising the Book while barely being able to recite any verses.

Earlier this week, his "war secretary" Pete Hegseth, parodied as an alcoholic by his critics, was roundly ridiculed for quoting a prayer during a Pentagon Christian worship service that mirrored a monologue delivered in the movie "Pulp Fiction".

Donald Trump signs order to expedite access to psychedelics

President Donald Trump signed an executive order to expedite research and access to psychedelics used outside the US to treat post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Today's order will ensure that people suffering from debilitating symptoms might finally have a chance to reclaim their lives and lead a happier life," Trump said in an Oval Office ceremony Saturday.

The order directs the US Food and Drug Administration to issue new guidance to researchers on ibogaine, a psychedelic compound extracted from the iboga plant in Africa that's used to treat depression, anxiety and PTSD for military veterans. The hallucinogen is considered a Schedule I controlled substance and is prohibited for use in the US.

While the order doesn't reclassify the drug for medical use, Trump urged the health professionals arrayed behind him at the event to reclassify it quickly. "These treatments are currently in the advanced stages of clinical trials to ensure that they're both safe and effective for the American patient," Trump said. His directive calls for a $50 million federal research investment into ibogaine, and opens an opportunity for terminally ill, or "desperately" ill, patients to try the drug under the Right to Try law passed during his first term. BLOOMBERG

Pope Leo, in Angola, decries 'despots' who make false promises

Luanda: Pope Leo sharply decried the exploitation of natural resources in Africa Saturday, blasting "despots and tyrants" who guarantee wealth but do not deliver on their promises, leading to suffering and deaths.

In a speech in oil-rich Angola, the third stop on his four-country Africa tour, Leo called on Angolans to work for a society free from the "slavery imposed by the elite who are laden with much wealth but false joys."

Leo has taken on a new forceful speaking style during the tour this week amid attacks from US President Donald Trump. On the flight from Cameroon to Angola, he sought to downplay their feud, telling reporters that comments he made about "tyrants" earlier in the trip were not directed at Trump and that it was not in the pope's interest to debate him.

Once on the ground in the Angolan capital, Luanda, Leo lamented that "powerful interests lay their claim" on the former Portuguese colony's natural resources, an apparent reference to foreign companies benefiting from Angola's oil and diamond sectors and its nascent critical minerals sector.

"All too often people have looked — and continue to look — to your lands ... in order to take," the pope said in remarks delivered to Angolan President João Lourenço and other political leaders. "How much suffering, how many deaths, how many social and environmental disasters are brought about by this logic of extractivism!".

Leo, originally from Chicago, kept a relatively low profile for a pope in his first 10 months but in recent weeks has become outspoken on a range of issues. REUTERS

Gunman opens fire in Ukraine capital, kills 5

A gunman opened fire in Kyiv on Saturday, killing at least five people, wounding others and taking hostages at a supermarket before being killed during an arrest attempt, officials said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that at least five people were dead and 10 hospitalised with wounds and trauma after the shooting in a residential district of the capital.

"The attacker in Kyiv who opened fire on civilians has been eliminated," Zelensky said on social media, offering "condolences to the families and loved ones" of the victims.

Footage posted by the UNIAN news agency showed a man carrying a gun and shooting at a person from a close range near a block of flats. AFP

Pakistan returned $2bn to UAE, says its central bank

Karachi: Pakistan has returned $2 billion it owed in debt to the United Arab Emirates, the country's central bank said Saturday.

The announcement by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) comes two days after Saudi Arabia deposited $2 billion, part of the $3 billion aid, with the SBP. The amount was kept with the central banks as a safe deposit, the SBP spokesperson said.

The UAE recently asked for the immediate return of the funds in the wake of the recent situation in West Asia following the US-Israel war on Iran, Geo News said, quoting sources, in a report earlier in the month.

Saudi Arabia reached an agreement, announced on Friday, with SBP which allows for an extension in the maturity of a $3 billion deposit with it. PTI

Pakistan PM returns after tri-nation tour

Islamabad: Pakistan PM Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif returned home on Saturday after a tri-nation visit in West Asia during which he held discussions on regional peace and bilateral ties with top leaders. Sharif visited Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkiye, where he met top leaders.

His return comes amid indications of a possible second round of US-Iran talks in Islamabad. The ceasefire deadline expires on April 22.

Iran's top national security body said Saturday that the country was reviewing "new proposals" received from the United States, even as it warned that its negotiators would cut no compromises with Washington.

"In recent days, with the presence of the commander of the Pakistani army in Tehran as an intermediary and mediator in the negotiations, new proposals have been put forward by the Americans, which the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently reviewing and has not yet responded to," the Supreme National Security Council said in a statement carried by state media. PTI, AFP

Set up 'Yellow Line' in Lebanon, as in Gaza: Israel

Israel's military said Saturday it had established a "Yellow Line" demarcation in southern Lebanon, similar to one separating its forces from Hamas-held areas in Gaza, adding it had hit a "terrorist cell" operating near its troops along the line.

"Over the past 24 hours, IDF forces operating south of the Yellow Line in southern Lebanon identified terrorists who violated the ceasefire understandings and approached the forces from north of the Yellow Line in a manner that posed an immediate threat," it said, referring to such a line for the first time since a ceasefire came into effect.

"In order to eliminate the threat... forces attacked the terrorists in several areas," it said. "Actions taken in self-defence and to remove immediate threats are not restricted by the ceasefire," it said.

In a separate statement later on Saturday, the military said the air force had eliminated a "terrorist cell" operating near troops in southern Lebanon. It did not specify how many were killed in the airstrike. AFP

France blames Hezbollah for French peacekeeper's death

A French soldier was killed and three others wounded in an attack Saturday on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon that appeared to have been carried out by Hezbollah, French President Emmanuel Macron said, an accusation the group has denied.

The attack follows an agreement between Israel and Lebanon on Thursday for a 10-day ceasefire to negotiate an end to six weeks of fighting between Israel and the Iran-backed group Hezbollah.

AFP

A French contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon patrols southern Lebanese area of Al-Qasmiyeh on Saturday

"Everything points to Hezbollah being responsible for this attack," Macron said on X, urging Lebanese authorities to arrest the perpetrators.

But Hezbollah — which is strongly opposed to the planned talks with Israel — denied involvement in the attack that killed the French peacekeeper, identified as staff sergeant **Florian Montorio**. "Hezbollah denies any connection to the incident," it said in a statement. The group urged "caution in making judgments and assigning responsibilities" pending the results of the Lebanese army's investigation into the incident.

The fighting in Lebanon — one of the fronts in the Middle East war — has seen the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) deployed there repeatedly targeted, by both Israeli and Hezbollah forces. Montorio, was caught in an "ambush" as his unit headed to a UNIFIL outpost and he died from a "direct gunshot", France's armed forces minister Catherine Vautrin said on X.

She said the outpost they had been heading to had been "cut off for several days by combat in the area". The ambush was carried out "by an armed group at very close range".

Montorio was "picked up by his comrades under fire" but they were unable to resuscitate him. An Iranian-designed drone killed another French soldier Arnaud Frion last month in Iraq's Kurdistan region. AFP

Blaze quelled at Russian port after Ukrainian strike

Russia said an overnight fire was extinguished at a port in the Vysotsk region on the Baltic Sea after Ukrainian drone attacks, while a Kremlin strike on Ukraine's north left 380,000 users without power.

Russian air defences destroyed 27 unmanned aerial vehicles over the Leningrad region, according to a Telegram post on Saturday by Governor Alexander Drozdenko.

The Vysotsk port, about 160km northwest of St Petersburg, is an export hub that handles oil products and other cargo. Lukoil, Russia's largest private oil producer, owns a terminal at the facility.

The Leningrad region's Baltic coast also hosts the ports of Primorsk and Ust-Luga, through which about 40% of Russia's seaborne crude oil exports pass. It's been a target of intensified Ukrainian drone attacks this year as Kyiv aims to curb the inflow of petrodollars to the Kremlin. BLOOMBERG

PROGRESSIVE LEADERS RALLY IN BARCELONA

AP

Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum with Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez at the summit 'In defence of democracy' in Barcelona, Spain, on Saturday. Progressive and traditional democratic leaders gathered in the city to discuss how to restore faith in the liberal order threatened by a world drifting toward far-right extremism and torn by conflict. The IV Meeting in Defence of Democracy also brought together Brazilian Prez Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa and Colombia's Gustavo Petro, as well as leaders or top officials of 10 other countries, including the United Kingdom. No leader mentioned Trump but the US President posted on Truth Social on Saturday: "Has anybody looked at how badly the country of Spain is doing. Their financial numbers, despite contributing almost nothing to NATO and their military defense, are absolutely horrendous. Sad to watch!!!" AP

China clean tech exports jump amid global energy disruption

China's exports of clean technology climbed in March, reinforcing signs that manufacturers are benefiting from rising global demand for alternative energy sources as traditional supplies are roiled by the Iran war.

The most notable growth came in shipments of lithium-ion batteries and electric vehicles, with an annual increase of 34% and 53%, according to data released by China's General Administration of Customs on Saturday. Solar cells also saw 80% growth last month. All three exports rose from Feb levels as well.

The data give the first comprehensive picture of China's clean tech exports since the US and Israel launched attacks against Iran seven weeks ago, effectively shutting the Strait of Hormuz and sparking a global energy crisis. The disruptions caused by the conflict have heightened the issue of energy security for countries reliant on fuel imports and sent consumers and industries hunting for alternatives.

"This is just the beginning, the knock-on effects of high energy prices will be unfolding for months to come," said Euan Graham, senior analyst at UK-based think tank Ember. "Clean technologies are an escape from soaring fuel costs for consumers and a long term route for countries to reduce fossil fuel reliance. China is well positioned to meet this growing demand."

Even if Strait of Hormuz opens, it could still take months for shipping to resume normal levels, assuming a peace deal is reached.

China, which already dominates global supply chains for solar and wind power, batteries, and EVs, now faces another opportunity to further its reach. Years of capacity-building, often at the expense of profitability, have enabled Chinese manufacturers to scale up distribution in overseas markets quickly and competitively, making green products a new growth driver for the country's exports.

In particular, shipments of EVs and hybrids jumped to a record 349,000 units in March, according to the China Passenger Car Association. Dealerships across Asian capitals have reported an influx of customers pivoting to EVs as they try to avoid fuel prices that have soared since the start of the war. "Chinese automakers can quickly increase their global reach during the Strait of Hormuz crisis," secretary general of the China Passenger Car Association, Cui Dongshu, said during a briefing last week.

Contemporary Amperex Technology, the world's largest maker of EV batteries, said in an earnings call on Wednesday that in the short term the increased uncertainty over crude oil supplies and prices will drive customers to increase their use of electrified products.

Domestic policy changes also influenced clean tech exports in the first quarter. Solar and batteries, for instance, saw export tax rebates either removed or lowered in April, which analysts said could lead companies to rush product out the door before the subsidies disappeared. BLOOMBERG

DAILY PLANET

Nathalie Baye, French movie star, dead at 77

French film star Nathalie Baye, a multi-Cesar Award winner who starred in Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me if You Can," has died at the age of 77, her family told AFP on Saturday. Baye, a stalwart of

French cinema, starred in some 80 films and took home the best actress Cesar — France's equivalent of the Oscars — four times, including three years running from 1981 to 1983. She died Friday evening at her home in Paris from Lewy body dementia, her family said. The neurodegenerative disease can alter mood, movement and provoke hallucinations. Baye's career saw a late surge of internationally high-profile roles, including playing Leonardo DiCaprio's mother in "Catch Me if You Can" and a French aristocrat in "Downton Abbey 2". She also worked with Canadian wunderkind Xavier Dolan, who cast her as one of his many difficult mothers in "Laurence Anyways" and "It's Only the End of the World".

"Une liaison pornographique" — whose English title was the more demure "An Affair of Love" — won her the best actress prize at the Venice film festival. Baye was born in 1948 in Normandy to bohemian parents who were both painters. But struggling with dyslexia, she left school at 14 and went to Monaco to learn dance. Her breakthrough came in the 1970s when she teamed up with arthouse directors such as Francois Truffaut, Maurice Pialat and Claude Sautet, and then in the 1980s with Jean-Luc Godard.

WH hosts 'productive' visit with Anthropic CEO

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei visited US officials at the White House on Friday, where they struck a different tone from the recent dispute between the US govt and the AI startup. US media reported Amodei met with Susie Wiles, President Donald Trump's chief of staff, as well as US treasury secretary Scott Bessent. "Today, the White House hosted an introductory meeting with Anthropic that was both productive and constructive," a White House spokesperson told AFP. "We discussed opportunities for collaboration, as well as shared approaches and protocols to address the challenges associated with scaling this technology."

Release of Suu Kyi top ally spurs hope

Yangon: The release of Myanmar's putsch-ousted former president has piqued speculation about the fate of detained leader Aung San Suu Kyi, but little optimism among citizens and analysts watching for a democracy comeback.

"I don't expect much from this release," said one 50-year-old Yangon resident, speaking on condition of anonymity for security reasons. "There is no reason to be thankful because he was arrested unjustly in the first place," she added.

Myanmar's military swept aside the elected govt of Aung San Suu Kyi in a 2021 coup, detaining the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and senior aides including her ceremonial president Win Myint.

His pardon on Friday was the biggest concession yet by the country's post-coup leadership headed by Min Aung Hlaing, who ruled for five years as military chief before last week being sworn in as civilian president.

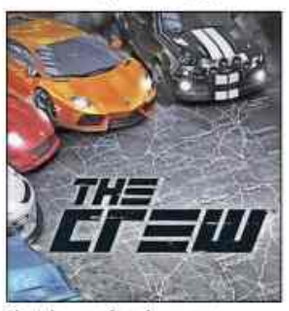
The release has raised the question of whether 80-year-old Suu Kyi may soon be freed or shifted to house arrest. AFP

Game over: Players press EU to ban 'destroying' video titles

It's a bitter pill for video gamers: a growing number of older but still-popular titles are being dropped by publishers — with servers going dark overnight — in a practice the EU is being urged to outlaw. More than a million people from across Europe have backed a citizens' petition called "Stop Destroying Videogames", and are now pressing for action in Brussels.

At the heart of the issue: in the past decade, hundreds of video titles have been rendered unplayable at the whim of their publishers, for a variety of reasons ranging from profitability to changes in strategy. A significant part of popular culture is being wiped out in the process, with no compensation for gamers who in many cases have invested substantial sums, notably on microtransactions inside the playing environment. Video games are Europe's largest cultural industry, generating billions of euros in revenue each year.

The phenomenon has concerned older versions of hugely popular franchises such as the FIFA football simulation series. "It's a bit like buying a book from a publisher and then suddenly opening it to find the pages have gone blank because they've decided you can't play your game anymore," Brendan Fourdan, organiser of the French chapter of the petition, told AFP.



Shutdown of racing game 'The Crew' was the final straw in 2024, prompting players to mobilise with European petition

Buoyed by the success of the citizens' initiative, gamers' rights campaigners have been lining up meetings to persuade the EU's different institutions to step in.

After meeting in Feb with the European Commission's digital chief Henna Virkkunen and consumer protection head Michael McGrath, they made their case to members of the European Parliament at a hearing on Thursday.

Campaigners are calling for existing consumer protection rules to be enforced when it comes to gaming — but also for EU legislation to be updated, a far bigger challenge. "What we want is simply that when they shut down a game, they leave it in a state where it can still be played," for example on private servers run by volunteers.

Failing that, the idea is to require publishers to systematically refund players.

Gaming companies, for their part, have rejected the solutions proposed by campaigners. "Private servers are not always a viable alternative option for players," industry group Video Games Europe said in a statement.

It argues that without the protections publishers put in place to secure players' data, remove illegal content, and combat unsafe community content, such a system would "leave rights holders liable" for abuses. AFP

With 60 Kirk-themed bills, 20+ US states seek to promote his ideology

Jefferson City (US): A new Kansas law will allow college students to sue their schools for free-speech violations. In Tennessee, a new law will encourage teachers and professors to include "the positive impacts of religion" in American history courses.

The common factor: Both are being done in the name of **Charlie Kirk**. The laws are among the first of what could become multiple state tributes to the conservative activist who was killed while speaking at a Utah university last year.

More than 60 Kirk-themed bills have been proposed in over 20 states seeking to promote his ideology, establish official days of remembrance or affix his name to roads and public places, according to an AP analysis using the bill-tracking software Plural.

Republican lawmakers in Kansas overrode the veto of Democratic governor Laura Kelly to enact a law that she said would "cause confusion for courts and schools."

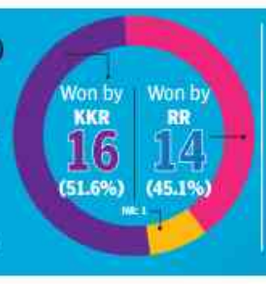
In Tennessee, where Republicans firmly control state govt, some Democrats denounced the pro-Kirk legislation by recounting what they described as racist remarks he made about Black pilots and Black women in govt positions. "How many times have we sat here and endured this? The Charlie Kirk Saves America Act, whatever the heck it is?" Democratic state Rep Sam McKenzie said during a committee meeting where Republicans endorsed the "Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act."

In Louisiana, Republicans have proposed a bill dubbed the "Charlie Kirk Success Sequence Act." The measure would require public schools to teach that the keys to success include earning a high school diploma, immediately entering the workforce after high school or college, and marrying before having children. A Senate panel advanced the bill this week after overcoming objections. AP

KPN
fresh
30 DAYS FREE MILK
KPN
fresh

TODAY'S FACE-
KKR VS RR
TV TIME 3:30 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

PLAYED 31



LAST FIVE MATCHES
KKR L L L NR L
RR L W W W W

VENUE: KOLKATA
ODDS
KKR 6/4 | RR 7/10

TIMES SPORT IPL 2026

"WATCHING SHREYAS PERFORM THAT ACROBATIC FIELDING ASSIST TO TAKE THE "TEAM CATCH" MADE ME APPRECIATE HOW FIELDING HAS EVOLVED. FOR A LONG TIME, I FELT LIKE THE 'FATHER OF FIELDING'. BUT, WATCHING THESE MODERN ATHLETES, MAKES ME FEEL LIKE THE 'GRANDFATHER OF FIELDING."
—Jonty Rhodes | Ex-SA batter

Stubbs + Miller = Thriller

KL Rahul Dazzles Too On His 34th Birthday As Capitals Chase Down RCB's 175 With One Ball To Spare

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Bengaluru: Back on home turf in familiar circumstances, KL Rahul stood tall amidst the ruins on a muggy Saturday evening. Reduced to 18/3 in the third over, Delhi Capitals were wobbling after being undone early by Bhuvneshwar Kumar's incisive spell (3/26). Yet the birthday boy, who turned 34, remained unflustered, anchoring the chase with a calm assurance that has become his hallmark.

It wasn't the first time Rahul had rescued his side from such a situation. His innings echoed his effort the last time these two teams met at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. On April 10 last year, the Karnataka batter struck an unbeaten, match-winning 93 in a six-wicket victory. This time too, he played the perfect foil, scoring a composed 57 off 34 balls (6x4, 2x6) to set up another six-wicket win.

On a day marking 19 years of the Indian Premier League, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, who had lost the tournament's inaugural match at this very venue, slumped to their second defeat of the season. Riding on Rahul's control and a late flourish from Tristan Stubbs (60 n.o.), along with David Miller's unbeaten 22, Capitals snapped defending champions RCB's five-match winning streak at home.

Chasing 176 on a tricky surface, DC were under pressure early as Bhuvneshwar struck thrice in the Powerplay. Pathum Nissanka (1), local lad Karun Nair (5) and Sameer Rizvi (2) all fell cheaply, unable to counter the veteran seamer's movement and control.

At the other end, Rahul began cautiously, seeing off a probing Bhuvneshwar before taking on Josh Hazlewood. A crisp six over extra cover signalled an intent shift. Alongside Stubbs, Rahul rebuilt the innings, picking off loose deliveries and steadily bringing the required rate under control.

Just as the partnership began to tilt the contest decisively, Rahul fell, slicing Krunal Pandya to Virat Kohli in the deep. For a brief period, RCB sensed an opening, but the South African duo of Stubbs and Miller shut the door firmly. With 15 required off the final over, Romario Shepherd briefly raised hopes by conceding just two runs off the first two balls. Miller, however, responded with two towering sixes before sealing the chase with a boundary with a ball to spare.

Earlier, RCB posted 175/8, the first sub-200 total at the venue this season. Phil Salt (63, 38b; 4x4, 3x6) provided a brisk start, adding 52 with Kohli (19) before Lungi Ngidi struck with his first ball, inducing a miscued shot from the latter.

Salt and Devdutt Padikkal (18) attempted to lift the tempo, but Axar Patel (2/18) turned the game on its head. Padikkal holed out to David Miller at long-on before Kuldeep Yadav (2/32) dismissed Salt soon after, applying the brakes.

From a strong 99/2 at the halfway mark, RCB lost six wickets for 76 runs. Axar's guile and Kuldeep's variations stifled the middle order, with Rajat Patidar and Tim David failing to capitalise. The innings lost momentum sharply, with RCB going 24 deliveries without a boundary and managing just eight runs in the final two overs.

In the end, Rahul's composure and Stubbs' intent proved decisive as RCB's fortress was breached on a day that also marked their 100th appearance at their home ground. Incidentally, RCB are the first team to play 100 home matches in the competition.

Syed Asif

60 An unbeaten knock off 47 balls played by Tristan Stubbs is his highest in a winning cause in the IPL — his only other fifty in wins being 57 not out off 25 balls vs LSG at Delhi on May 14, 2024.

57 KL Rahul's half-century is his 25th fifty-plus score in wins in the IPL. He has three hundreds in that list.

SCOREBOARD

RCB P Salt c Stubbs b Kuldeep 63, V Kohli c Nissanka b Ngidi 19, D Padikkal c Miller b Patel 18, R Patidar c Rahul b Mukesh 8, T David c Natarajan b Patel 26, J Sharma c Miller b Ngidi 14, R Shepherd lbw Kuldeep 1, K Pandya run out 12, R Salam not out 0, B Kumar not out 3. **Extras:** (lb-2, nb-1, w-8) 11

Total: 175 for 8 in 20 overs.

Fall of wickets: 1-52, 2-99, 3-105, 4-131, 5-146, 6-149, 7-172, 8-172

Bowling: A Nabi 3-0-36-0, M Kumar 4-0-32-1, L Ngidi 4-0-39-2, K Yadav 4-0-32-2, T Natarajan 2-0-16-0, A Patel 3-0-18-2.

DC: P Nissanka lbw Kumar 1, KL Rahul c Kohli b Pandya 57, K Nair c Salt b Kumar 5, S Rizvi c Sharma b Kumar 2, T Stubbs not out 60, A Patel (retired hurt) 26, D Miller not out 22. **Extras:** (lb-3, nb-1, w-2) 6. **Total:** 179/4 in 19.5 overs.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-16, 3-18, 4-87, 4-134 (Axar Patel, retired not out).

Bowling: B Kumar 4-0-26-3, J Hazlewood 4-0-38-0, R Salam 4-0-40-0, K Pandya 4-0-24-1, S Sharma 3-0-31-0, R Shepherd 0.5-0-17-0.

Result: DC won by six wickets.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
PBKS	5	4	0	1	1.067	9
RCB	6	4	2	0	1.171	8
RR	5	4	1	0	0.889	8
SRH	6	3	3	0	0.566	6
DC	5	3	2	0	0.310	6
GT	5	3	2	0	0.018	6
CSK	6	2	4	0	-0.780	4
LSG	5	2	3	0	-0.804	4
MI	5	1	4	0	-1.076	2
KKR	6	0	5	1	-1.149	1

*Updated till SRH vs CSK match

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Sunrisers hold their nerve to down Super Kings

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Hyderabad: Chennai Super Kings fans painted the Uppal Stadium yellow, but hosts Sunrisers Hyderabad held their nerve to record a thrilling 10-run victory in the Indian Premier League match at the Rajiv Gandhi International stadium on Saturday.

Asked to bat, Abhishek Sharma, raced to his fastest half-century in 15 balls and scored a 22-ball 59 (6x4, 4x6) while Heinrich Klaasen hit his third fifty this season (59; 39b, 6x4, 2x6) to guide their side to 194/9. The hosts looked set for a bigger total before the visitors pulled things back with the help of Jamie Overton (3/37), Anshul Kamboj (3/22) and Mukesh Choudhary (2/21).

But Eshan Malinga (3/29), Nitish Kumar Reddy (2/31) and Shivang Kumar (1/18) bowled tight spells to guide the hosts to their third victory. Defending 18 in the final over, Praful Hinge, who went for 54 runs in his first three overs, conceded seven runs to seal the win.

CSK lost Sanju Samson (7) in the second over as he top-edged Nitish to Klaasen. Nitish could have had Ayush Mhatre also for a duck but Klaasen failed to hold on to a tough chance four balls later.

Mhatre made them pay by hitting Hinge for 24 runs. But hampered by a hamstring injury, Mhatra, after adding 51 runs in 21 balls with captain Gaikwad, departed when Klaasen pulled off a brilliant catch at extra-cover in the fifth over. Malinga struck in the next over by removing Gaikwad (19), but CSK ended the powerplay at 76/3.

Sarfaraz Khan and Matthew Short added 46 runs for the fourth wicket before the former (25; 19b, 3x4) flicked Malinga straight to Nitish in the deep. The visitors were soon reduced to 113/5 as Shivang outfoxed Dewald Brevis (0). Short and Shivam Dube stitched a 25-ball 35-run stand but Malinga once again derailed the chase, dismissing Short in the 16th over.

Earlier, Sunrisers scored 23 in the first three overs. Travis Head (23; 20b, 3x4, 1x6) and Abhishek combined to score 15 runs off Kamboj in the fourth over to up the ante. Abhishek took a special liking for spinner Short hitting him for 25 runs in the next over with three boundaries and two sixes to reach his half-century in 15 balls.

However, Mukesh struck twice in the sixth over to pull things back. Head hit Mukesh for three boundaries before he was caught at mid-off with Gaikwad taking a diving catch. Ishan Kishan (0) departed next ball, again caught by Gaikwad as the hosts posted 75/2 in powerplay.

Abhishek, dropped on 51 by Dube off Noor Ahmed, failed to capitalise. He edged Overton to wicketkeeper Samson, a verdict CSK reviewed successfully. Overton then removed Aniket Varma (2) cheaply before Klaasen and Nitish Kumar Reddy (12) rebuilt the innings with a 35-run fifth-wicket stand. Overton once again broke the stand dismissing Nitish. **Brief scores: SRH: 194/9 in 20 overs** (A Sharma 59, H Klaasen 59; J Overton 3-37, A Kamboj 3-22, M Choudhary 2-21) bt **CSK: 184/8 in 20 overs** (A Mhatre 30, M Short 34, S Khan 25; N Reddy 2-31, E Malinga 3-29).

Ramoorthy P

FACE-OFF

PBKS VS LSG
TV TIME: 7.30 PM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

PBKS	LSG
3	3

LAST FIVE MATCHES
PBKS W W NR W W
LSG L L W W L

VENUE: NEW CHANDIGARH
WEATHER 27°C
ODDS
PBKS 8/10 | LSG 12/10

NUMBERS GAME

91 Prabhsimran Singh's knock off 48 deliveries at Dharamshala on May 4, 2025 is the highest individual score in matches between the two teams. Conversely, Yash Thakur's 4/37 are the best bowling figures.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

'Self-aware' Iyer breathing down SKY's neck

Punjab Kings Skipper Is Obvious Candidate To Replace Surya As India's T20I Captain, But Selectors Not In Hurry To Take Call

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

New Chandigarh: Shreyas Iyer first tasted IPL captaincy in turbulent circumstances. In an awkward press conference midway through the 2018 season, flanked by head coach Ricky Ponting, Delhi Daredevils (now Delhi Capitals) stalwart Gautam Gambhir stood down owing to woeful form and the team's embarrassing run. Gambhir announced Iyer as his successor.

Iyer went on to blossom as a captain and a batter under Ponting at Capitals before moving to Kolkata Knight Riders in 2022, when the Delhi franchise shifted leadership to Rishabh Pant. He reunited with Gambhir at KKR in 2024 and guided the franchise to the IPL title. The triumph saw Gambhir graduate to India's head coach within a month, and Iyer depart the franchise.

Even as Gambhir went into overdrive to reshape India's T20I setup, Iyer remained out of contention. Turbulence has followed his career despite sustained consistency. Now reunited with Ponting at Punjab Kings — both nursing scars from their Capitals exit — Iyer is stirring a campaign that could knock on the door of Gambhir's champion T20 unit.

On Sunday evening here, Iyer will come up against Pant, now leading Lucknow Super Giants and fighting an uphill battle to reclaim his India spot after being sidelined post the triumphant T20 World Cup campaign in 2024.

But Iyer's race is no longer against Pant. World Cup-winning captain Suryakumar Yadav's prolonged slump has triggered one of the trickiest phases for Gambhir and the selection committee.

Sources told **TOI** that Iyer is the most obvious replacement for Surya if and when selectors decide to move on. His authority at No. 4 in T20 cricket is unmatched in Indian cricket at present. The selectors showed little leniency with Pant and Shubman Gill in the format. But conviction around Surya's successor — particularly as captain — remains key.

"Iyer last played a T20I in 2023. He has not been part of the current setup. It's a big call to bring him back and hand him the captaincy straightaway," a BCCI source told TOI. "The focus has shifted towards the 2027 ODI World Cup, which has given selectors breathing space to plan for a T20I leadership transition."

At Punjab Kings, Iyer has been branded the sarpanch. His swagger and carefree demeanour fit the aura. It stems from self-awareness. Bowling coach James Hopes, a Ponting mainstay since their Capitals days, has witnessed a flamboyant 23-year-old evolve into a 31-year-old leader in complete command.

"He's very aware of what his perceived weaknesses were over the years. He's come into this season having really nailed them. When he got hurt in Australia (in Oct last year), he was starting to nailing them in international cricket as well," Hopes said here on Saturday. "Once he finds his way back into the Indian team, you'll see the batter he's going to be for the rest of his career. Captaincy improves his batting," Hopes added.

Iyer has always operated comfortably around Ponting. As a captain now, there is little need for handholding. "He was very young when he was captaining Delhi. Ricky and Shreyas work very well together. In planning meetings, he's the captain. He steps up, has his own ideas and is willing to listen," Hopes added.

Cricimas

Like he did with Rohit Sharma at Mumbai Indians in 2013, Aussie great Ricky Ponting (R) identified Shreyas Iyer's leadership skills in 2018 at Delhi Daredevils. And, now at PBKS, both have struck a productive partnership again since last year

Crisis-hit Knight Riders brace for tough Royals test

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Kolkata: Kolkata Knight Riders' season is going from bad to worse and knives will surely be out. As they reach the halfway stage of the IPL without a win, Sunday's match against Rajasthan Royals at the Eden here might provide them with an opportunity to embark on a road to redemption.

Might be asking for too much, though, as with just one point in their bag, they have a Herculean task ahead. Winning all their remaining eight games, particularly with their morale low and their campaign directionless, is not something that punters will bet on. There appears to be many wrongs in the way KKR have been going about their task and buck stops at skipper Ajinkya Rahane.

The veteran hasn't been very inspiring as a leader and some on-field decisions have also come under scrutiny. Juggling Cameron Green's batting position is quite confusing.

Krishna Roy

While the KKR faithful at the Eden will be firmly behind their team, fans will also get to see Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for the first time at this storied venue

SOORYAVANSHI SHOULD ENJOY HIS FAILURES TOO: SANGAKKARA

Saibal.Bose
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi isn't a normal 15-year-old kid. He is quite different and the Rajasthan Royals sensation has the cricket world watching him with great excitement. However, Kumar Sangakkara, the Royals head coach, wants this batting prodigy to be just like any other 15-year-old.

"I just want him to be this 15-year-old kid that goes out and bats the way he wants," Sangakkara said here on Saturday. "He has got to enjoy everything, whether it's 100 off 35 balls, a 50 off 15 or a first-ball duck."

Sooryavanshi had his first taste of failure this season in the last game against Sunrisers Hyderabad, when he got out on the first ball he faced. The boy grimaced, perhaps a little angry at himself.

"You're allowed to score runs, you're allowed to fail. It's part and parcel of cricket," was Sangakkara's message to the youngster. "He must never lose the freedom he plays with."

WEATHER 33°C

The Australian has come at No. 3 and 6, before firing at number 4. With his brilliant 79 against Gujarat Titans, Green has the monkey of an enormous price-tag off his back. However, the all-rounder did not bowl against the Titans, despite sending down two overs each against LSG and CSK.

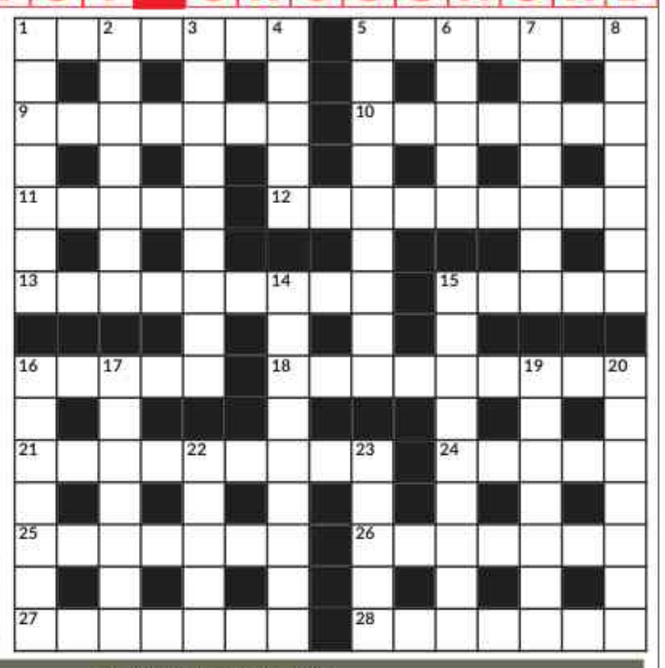
Sunday's match is about teams at two ends of the spectrum. Even as KKR languish at the bottom, the Royals were running away with all the glory till they hit a roadblock against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their last match.

Incidentally, while KKR have been on the road for a week, RR have had three good days of practice here.

THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0268

The **TOI Crossword contest** is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. **Stay tuned!**



The Times of India CROSSWORD EVERY SUNDAY

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across
1 Wild South American city moves to the States (7)
5 Musician making a racket (7)
9 Quietly withdraw and go before the others (7)
10 Eminent scholar turned masseur (7)
11 Spilling a pint - clumsy! (5)
12 Signs in and makes an impression (9)
13 Usual wish for a happy retirement? (9)
15 Can't bear inordinate haste (5)
16 Worn parts of brakes (5)
18 Sailor man in waterproof material (9)
21 Command rigidly obeyed on the parade ground (9)
24 A substitute for medicine (5)
25 Impressive work by the bookmaker (7)
26 Urge on the leading intellectual? (7)
27 Nearest resort in the Orient (7)
28 Cast in a very bad shape (7)

Down
1 Schoolboy expression results in tears (7)
2 Seasoning duck with orange perhaps (7)
3 Harmonics are the obvious ones (9)
4 Weapon made from spare parts (5)
5 Again fitted in combat plane built to take cargo (9)
6 Pulls up the grass (5)
7 Glowing reference to a doctor coming in fast (7)
8 One in unusual stress doesn't give in (7)
14 Well past one's prime yet still making progress (7,2)
15 Halo for a late motorist? (9)
16 Let's eat out in America (7)
17 So point out there's more than one choice (7)
19 An upholder of the Bible (7)
20 Moan about Richard endlessly wandering (7)
22 Number one's direction is sound (5)
23 Works to make dough say to satisfy these? (5)

QUICK CLUES

Across
1 A leaf vegetable (7) 5 Blackberry bush (7)
9 A wonder (7) 10 Continuous absence of rain (7)
11 Tolerate (5) 12 Closely united (5-4) 13 Set apart from the rest (9) 15 Passing popular fashion (5)
16 Emissary (5) 18 Press, TV and radio (4,5) 21 Grim novel by Dickens (4,5) 24 Malicious starting of fires (5) 25 Denigrate (7) 26 Well disciplined (7) 27 Disease causing lockjaw (7) 28 Continue after pause (7)

Down
1 A navigational aid (7) 2 Ardent (7) 3 Deadly foe (9)
4 Throw out (5) 5 Gradually (2,7) 6 Take up and practise (5) 7 Popular garden flower (7)
8 Give a right (7) 14 Weapons of war (9)
15 Fluctuate (4,3,2) 16 Item shown in evidence (7)
17 Green with vegetation (7) 19 Be worthy of (7)
20 Vexed (7) 22 Symbol (5)
23 Pry into others' affairs (5)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC

V	I	C	T	I	M	■	A	I	R	C	R	A	F	T
I	■	R	■	N	■	■	■	R	■	O	■	F	■	H
S	T	E	P	P	E	■	P	A	R	A	D	I	S	E
I	■	S	■	A	■	G	■	Q	■	L	■	R	■	A
B	A	C	K	W	A	R	D	■	A	F	F	E	C	T
L	■	E	■	N	■	O	■	S	■	I	■	■	■	R
E	R	N	E	■	C	U	S	T	A	R	D	P	I	E
■	■	■	D	■	S	■	N	■	I	■	E	■	■	■
D	R	O	P	P	E	D	O	F	F	■	K	N	E	E
R	■	■	■	I	■	S	■	F	■	V	■	N	■	X
E	S	T	A	T	E	■	D	E	M	O	L	I	S	H
S	■	A	■	E	■	G	■	N	■	L	■	L	■	A
S	T	U	D	F	A	R	M	■	B	U	R	E	A	U
E	■	N	■	U	■	I	■	■	M	■	S	■	S	■
S	E	T	T	L	I	N	G	■	T	E	A	S	E	T

QUICK

R	E	F	O	R	M	■	C	O	N	G	R	E	S	S
U	■	A	■	I	■	■	■	V	■	I	■	A	■	W
L	O	C	U	S	T	■	P	E	R	V	E	R	S	E
E	■	E	■	I	■	F	■	R	■	E	■	T	■	A
O	F	F	A	N	D	O	N	■	C	A	C	H	E	T
U	■	A	■	G	■	R	■	A	■	W	■	■	■	E
T	A	C	T	■	C	A	T	C	H	A	C	O	L	D
■	■	T	■	S	■	G	■	C	■	Y	■	P	■	■
M	I	S	S	T	H	E	B	U	S	■	B	E	A	R
A	■	■	■	A	■	S	■	S	■	D	■	N	■	E
C	O	V	E	R	T	■	D	E	T	A	C	H	E	D
B	■	I	■	W	■	F	■	D	■	R	■	O	■	R
E	M	P	H	A	T	I	C	■	M	I	N	U	T	E
T	■	E	■	R	■	N	■	■	■	N	■	S	■	S
H	A	R	A	S	S	E	D	■	E	G	R	E	S	S

KPN
fresh
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fresh

#EndendiguBengaluru: A Movement, Built One Stride at a Time

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

tcs WORLD 10K BENGALURU
26 April 2026

Bengaluru runs bigger than ever, with a record 35,000+ participants, and 262.43 crore in economic impact—setting new benchmarks for sport, health, and community engagement

IDFC FIRST Bank
Associate Sponsor

Over 18 years, the TCS World 10K Bengaluru has evolved into a movement that celebrates Bengaluru's spirit, offering a blend of competition, camaraderie, and community impact. Lace up to celebrate the city's joyful spirit #EndendiguBengaluru.

This World Athletics Gold Label race has witnessed an overwhelming response, with Open 10K registrations closing in just six days, a testament to its growing popularity. The event, which continues to set new benchmarks year after year, will bring together a record-breaking 35,000+ runners on the ground and virtually, transforming the city into one of the most electrifying and sought-after destinations in the world.

A Participative Sporting Movement—With a Purpose

In collaboration with the Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Bengaluru, Procam International has unveiled a first-of-its-kind report that highlights how the race has been a pioneer in transforming the economic, health and social paradigm in South India. The event has contributed INR 262.43 crore in economic impact for the 2025 edition alone.

Run in Costume takes a new avatar

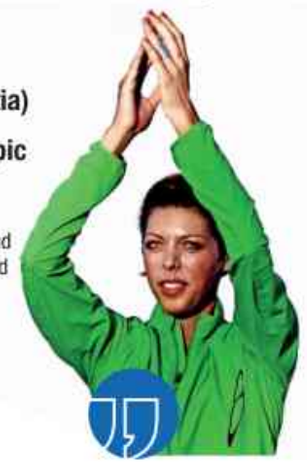
For the first time, the popular Run in Costume is open to all registered runners across categories. Participants can simply show up in costume on race day—no pre-registration required. Dedicated Run in Costume photo-ops at pre- and post-race zones will serve as the official entry points. Winners will be decided through an audience poll, with the top three entries in both individual and group categories receiving exciting cash prizes. The total prize pool for the Run in Costume stands at INR 1.55 lakhs.

Bengaluru Cheers for the Participants

Procam Josh will transform Bengaluru into a city-wide cheering arena, with citizens, run clubs, and NGOs lining the route—infusing the race with vibrant local culture and an electrifying experience for participants. The course will come alive with Dollu Kunitha, the powerful traditional drum dance, along with cheering zones inspired by Bengaluru's iconic KR Flower Market and community groups dressed in traditional attire adding colour and spirit throughout the route. Moreover, over 570+ supporters from run clubs—including Cisco Runners, JJ's Running, Running Roadies, Magical Malnad, Running Buddies, Trail Blazers, ODU Run Club, Sunlight Blazers, Run Addicts, Infinity Run Club, and Main Mission—will be out in full force to energise runners every step of the way.

BLANKA VLAŠIĆ (Croatia)

World Champion & Olympic Medallist – High Jump



"Give it your best, prepare well, and embrace the journey. I look forward to seeing everyone in Bengaluru on the start line, as we come together to celebrate the spirit of #EndendiguBengaluru."

Advantage Virtual

Virtual 10K and 5K participants can earn a guaranteed paid spot in the 2027 on-ground race (first-come, first-served). Up to 1,000 men and 1,000 women from the Virtual 10K, along with 250 men and 250 women from the Virtual 5K, are eligible for the Open 10K. Additionally, 1,000 men and 1,000 women from the Virtual 5K can secure a spot in the 2027 edition of the Majja Run.

Sustainable Footprint

The TCS World 10K Bengaluru is committed to sustainability, focusing on waste reduction, eco-friendly mobility, and resource conservation. As a zero-waste-to-landfill event, it ensures segregation, recycling, composting, and energy recovery, supported by partners like the Greater Bengaluru Authority and Hasiru Dala Innovations. With paperless operations, sustainable hydration, biodiversity efforts, renewable energy exploration, and community engagement, the race continues to lower its carbon footprint and set a benchmark for responsible sporting events.

Special Services by BMRCL on Race Day

BMRCL will commence metro services starting from Whitefield (Kadugodi) at 3.30 am, Challaghatta at 3.35 am, Madavara at 3.20 am, Silk Institute at 3.30 am and Bommasandra at 3.00 am. Trains will run every 15 minutes for the first hour. Thereafter, it will run at 30-minute intervals till 7.00 am on race day, and later as per schedule, enabling participants to travel conveniently from different parts of the city to the venue.

CHAMPIONS at the start line

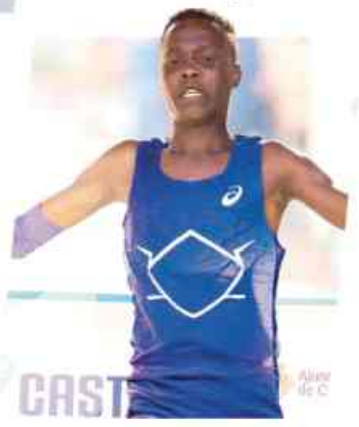
Abhishek Pal, India
Defending Champion & Event Record Holder

Sanjivani Jadhav, India
Defending Champion & Event Record Holder

Sarah Chelangat, Uganda
Defending Champion, TCS World 10K Bengaluru

Kiran Matre, India
Winner, TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2024

Brenda Jepchirchir, Kenya
Winner, Valencia 10K 2026



Harbert Kibet, Uganda
Fastest in the elite field (26:39)

Finisher Tee by ASICS, Sports Goods Partner

(L-R): Vivek Singh, Joint MD, Procam International; Bilat Thongram, Head of Corporate Marketing, TCS; Brigadier M. R. Subodh, Karnataka & Kerala Sub-Area, Indian Army; Sunil Deshpande, Regional Head, TCS, Bengaluru; Prashant Prabhakara, Regional Head – South, IDFC FIRST Bank; ASICS athlete Jarmanpreet Singh; Sachin Raman, Regional Sales Head, South India, Air India Express; Saurabh Sharma, Senior Director, Marketing, ASICS India; A. Rajavelu, Secretary, Karnataka Athletic Association; and Magesh Subramanian, Project Lead (TCSW10K), United Way Bengaluru

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Sunday
26th April 2026
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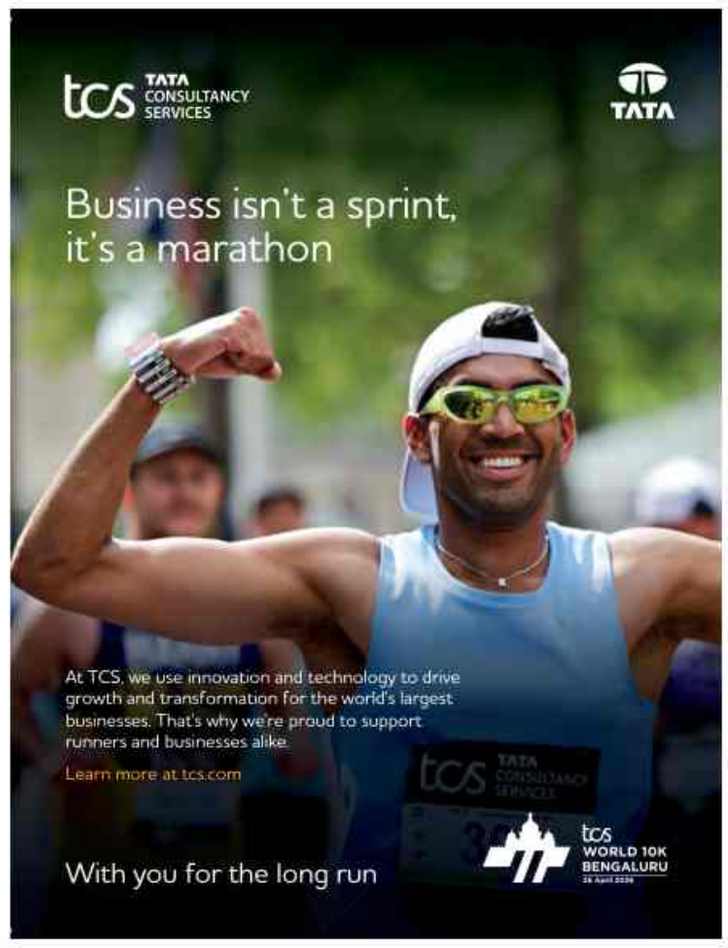

GET ACTIVE EXPO 2026
Health, Fitness, Lifestyle

Registered participants can collect their bibs from

VENUE
St. Joseph's Indian High School (CBSE), 23 Vittal Mallya Road, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru - 560001 (Opposite UB City Mall)

DATE & TIME
Thurs, 23rd April : 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Fri, 24th April : 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sat, 25th April : 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

BISLERI ENERGISES AS OFFICIAL HYDRATION PARTNER

Bisleri, India's most trusted brand in packaged drinking water, proudly returns as the Hydration Partner for the 2026 edition. This landmark event continues to unite global professional athletes and fitness enthusiasts under the shared values of peak performance and community spirit.

To ensure a world-class experience for over 35,000 participants across various categories, Bisleri will deploy strategic hydration stations along the route, which traverses iconic landmarks including Ulsoor Lake, Dickenson Road, and Vidhana Soudha.

To enhance the race experience, Bisleri is incorporating Mist Zones at the Manekshaw Parade Ground finish area to provide runners with an innovative cooling experience during the final stretch on Cubbon Road.

Sustainability remains at the heart of this partnership through Bisleri's 'Greener Promise' initiative. The event will showcase benches made from recycled plastic at key rest spots, serving as a tangible reminder of the brand's commitment to responsible living and a circular economy.

Hydration Partner
Bisleri

Celebrating the athletic spirit of the city, Bisleri will launch Limited Edition bottles featuring iconic marathoners—Soniya, Abhishek Pal and Harmanjot Singh. These collectible packs honour the dedication of the running community and Bisleri's long-standing association with the sporting world.

From ensuring peak performance through hydration to leading environmental action, Bisleri continues to champion both the runner and the planet.

Where Every Step Has a Purpose

At United Way Bengaluru, we believe real change begins when passion meets purpose. For over a decade, we have been creating impact across climate action, education, healthcare, livelihoods, and community development, driving high-impact social interventions that strengthen systems and transform lives.

From revitalising government schools and improving access to public healthcare to enabling sustainable livelihoods and restoring urban ecosystems, our work is rooted in creating long-term, measurable impact at scale.

At the TCS World 10K Bengaluru, this commitment comes alive.

This is not just a race. It is where a city comes together to give. It is where runners go beyond personal goals, individuals step up as fundraisers, NGOs champion causes that matter, and corporates drive collective impact.

Over the years, TCS World 10K Bengaluru has evolved into one of India's most powerful philanthropic platforms, bringing together hundreds of NGOs and raising over 59+ crores for critical social causes.

Philanthropy Partner
UNITED WAY BENGALURU

This year, the momentum continues with 90+ NGOs, 35+ corporates, and hundreds of individuals coming together to create change, one step at a time. The fundraising period continues until 9th May 2026.

And the journey doesn't end at the finish line. It continues with every new contribution. Because each contribution is more than a number. It is access, dignity, opportunity, and hope.

Every journey begins with a reason

For some, it's the finish line. For others, a promise to themselves. And for many, it's the belief that they can go a little further than yesterday. Across India, thousands show up for that journey. Early mornings, long miles, small unseen wins. Step by step, they move forward. At Air India Express, we see something familiar in that. Because journeys are not just about where you go, but how far you're willing to push yourself to get there. That's why our association goes beyond sponsorship. We're not just at the start or the finish; we're part of the journey.

Airline Partner
AIR INDIA express

With the Runner's Passport, runners carry their journey across cities and years. Through immersive experiences, we're there when they need comfort or motivation. And beyond the race, from Run Bengaluru to Fly Xpress, with 20 per cent off flights, we help them keep moving forward. Because this isn't about one race. It's about a continuous journey. And somewhere along the way, something shifts. The run feels lighter. The effort turns into flow. You feel lifted.

That's what you experience with Air India Express. Xpress wali baat hai.

BENGALURU'S RUNNING SEASON GETS A SUPERBLAST

Bengaluru runners take running seriously. They train, they track, and they chase personal bests. ASICS, the global Japanese sportswear brand, has been powering that pursuit through 70 years of sports innovation. As the official Sports Goods Partner for the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026, ASICS has been at the heart of the city's thriving running culture, supporting everyone from seasoned marathoners to early risers finding their pace.

Sports Goods Partner
asics

This race season, ASICS brings the SUPERBLAST™ 3, a high-performance shoe designed to help runners get more out of every kilometre. FF LEAP™ foam, the brand's lightest and most responsive cushioning to date, powers a bouncier, more efficient ride. A dual-layer cushioning system combining FF LEAP™ and FF BLAST™ PLUS, an engineered woven upper for breathability, and an improved midfoot support system make it the ideal companion for both training and race day.

The official TCS World 10K 2026 race-day look features lightweight ASICS T-shirts, shorts, tights, sports bras and socks, all engineered with ACTIBREEZE™ technology for breathability, moisture management and ease of movement.

Across India's major marathons in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, ASICS continues to shape the running culture nationwide. Rooted in the 'Sound Mind, Sound Body' philosophy, the brand remains committed to India's growing running community, on race day and every training run before it.

Powered by: AMARON
Sports Goods Partner: asics
Hydration Partner: Bisleri
Airline Partner: AIR INDIA express
Social Connect Partner: vedanta
Print Partner: The Times of India
Radio Partner: Mirchi
Supported by: Government of Karnataka; Indian Army, Karnataka and Kerala Sub Area; Namma Metro; BBMP
Telecast Partner: SONY SPORTS NETWORK
Hospitality Partner: ITC Hotel, ITC Windsor
Medical Partner: Fortis
Philanthropy Partner: United Way Bengaluru
Live Broadcast & Content: Initium
Certified by: AIMS
Under the aegis of: Indian Athletics
Under the auspices of: KAA
Promoted by: Procam

SNAP SHOTS

PCI terminates coach Naval Singh's services

The Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) has terminated the services of coach Naval Singh with immediate effect after Paralympic gold-medallist Sumit Antil accused the Dronacharya awardee of mental harassment and verbal abuse in a complaint to the Sports Authority of India (SAI). In a letter dated Friday, PCI president Devendra Jhajharia said Naval has been removed from all Paralympic Committee activities. "On receiving complaints from Paralympic medallist Sumit Antil and several others regarding alleged misconduct, inappropriate behaviour, and harassment by coach Naval Singh, the matter was carefully reviewed. The complaints were duly examined, and the athletes were given a fair opportunity to present their concerns," the letter said.

Chotrani goes down to Masotti: India's Veer Chotrani went down to French fourth seed Baptiste Masotti in a five-game thriller in the men's quarterfinals of the Hamburg Open. Chotrani, ranked world No 47, recovered twice to take the contest down to the wire before the French world No 19 clinched the decider for a 12-10, 9-11, 14-12, 9-11, 11-6 victory in 69 minutes.

Aditi makes cut in LA: An eagle towards the end of the day saw Aditi Ashok make the cut at the LPGA Tour event in Los Angeles. Aditi carded 72 after a first round 70 and at 2-under for 36 hole. Sei Young Kim shot her second straight 7-under 65 at El Caballero to take a one-stroke lead.

Pranavi scrapes through: Pranavi Urs was the sole Indian to make the cut as she scraped through into the weekend rounds on the cutline at the Joburg Ladies Open in Johannesburg. Pranavi was tied 52nd. Tvesa Malik, Diksha Dagar, Avani Prashanth and Hitaashee Bakshi missed the cut.

Infantino defends World Cup prices: FIFA president Gianni Infantino defended high ticket prices for this year's World Cup by saying on Friday that the event, which captivates the globe, is the organization's only source of income every four years. Speaking at Semafor's annual world economy summit in New York, Infantino also reiterated that FIFA is a non-profit organization that has 211 nations as members.

Hassan District held: Hassan District Hockey Association played out a 1-1 draw with Rangers Hockey Club in the KSHA 'A' division hockey league championship in Bengaluru on Saturday. While Augustine Martin put Hassan ahead in the 15th minute, Suresh scored the equaliser for Rangers in the 22nd minute.

Result: Hassan District HA 1 (Augustine Martin 15) drew with Rangers HC 1 (Suresh 22).

STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO: VAISHALI

Despite Becoming The Challenger, 24-Year-Old Feels She Isn't The Best Woman Player From India — Humpy And Harika Are Ahead Of Her

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FIDE

Chennai: As R Vaishali returned to Chennai as the new World Championship Challenger, in the early hours of Sunday, she was still trying to come to terms with the magnitude of the achievement. The 24-year-old feels she is "living the dream," but almost in the same breath, insists there is still "a lot more to achieve".

Speaking to TOI, Vaishali made it clear she is hungry for more. "It feels nice living my dream and I'm slowly processing what has happened. It's been a long journey and this was one of my dreams. But I still don't think I have become one of the greatest women chess players from India. I mean, it's a long way to go. Both (Koneru) Humpy akka and (D) Harika akka, who are really an inspiration for me, have played chess for decades and even after becoming mothers, they are playing at the highest level. It's not easy. I hope I'll also have a long journey like them. There's a lot more to achieve," Vaishali said.

The mild-mannered girl, who will be the second Indian female to challenge the crown after Humpy (in 2011), hopes moments like these make more girls believe they belong here or take up the sport seriously.

"I hope many girls will get inspired and take up chess professionally. The last few years for Indian women's chess has been amazing. Humpy akka won the World Rapid Championship a couple of years ago and Divya (Deshmukh) won the World Cup. We've seen Indian juniors dominating, but Indian women's chess is different and it's nice that we are winning tournaments also. So, I just hope many girls will take it up," the third female GM from the country said.

But, almost paradoxically, it was a step away from the board that helped Vaishali get here. Last year had been "very tough" as losses kept piling up and confidence took a hit. Although, she walked into the FIDE Grand Swiss Tournament weighed down and with little to no preparation, it was that very event that turned things around, as Vaishali defended her title and sealed her Candidates spot.

> **He (Pragg) had a tough event, but he was still motivating me. It felt like we were very close to our dreams. In the last game, for example, we discussed some lines. He is someone who knows me better than anybody else. Pragg told me that after I played the c4 move (the hard-to-spot move which almost sealed the win), he could finally breathe."**
> —**Vaishali,** ON HER BROTHER'S ROLE

Chess is a brutal sport and at times it can take a significant toll on mental health, which is why Vaishali said it is of paramount importance. "It's very, very important. I've also been working with a psychologist on this. She's been super helpful for the last 7-8 months now. Initially (when the losses happened), I didn't know what to do. Because I felt like I was working hard, but the results were not showing. It was very tough.

TOI Exclusive

But thanks to the people around me, my family, my coach RB Ramesh sir and his wife Aarthie. They made me believe that I'll be rewarded at some point.

"And special mention to (Viswanathan) Anand sir and Westbridge Anand Chess Academy (WACA), who continued to support me and help me in every way possible. I'm very grateful to them. So, the last few months, I've been training back-to-back for this one. I think now we'll take some break and then start preparing again," Vaishali said.

If Vaishali had her own battles to fight, there was also quiet support coming from close quarters. Her brother, R Praggnanandhaa, who endured a difficult outing in the Open section of the Candidates, remained a constant presence through her campaign.

"He had a tough event, but he was still motivating me. It felt like we were very close to our dreams. In the last game, for example, we discussed some lines. He is someone who knows me better than anybody else. When I walked out of the playing hall after the win, Pragg and Amma were standing there, and I couldn't control my emotions anymore. I was very happy. And then Pragg told me that after I played the c4 move (the hard-to-spot move which almost sealed the win), he could finally breathe. He was also very tense," said Vaishali, who, in her own words, prefers not to celebrate in front of opponents who have just lost.

Speaking about her coach, Ramesh, who took three flights from Chennai to surprise her in Cyprus and arrived barely five minutes before the award ceremony, Vaishali said they are more like family now.

"We've also had a long journey; he's been helping both me and Pragg for close to 11–12 years now. And both Ramesh sir and Aarthie aunty have supported us a lot. It's more than a trainer-student relationship. They've been planning everything for us, even outside chess, for our betterment, for both me and Pragg. They've guided us in every way. This is one dream for him as well. For him to travel all the way, more than 20 hours, and cancel his training plans, it shows how much it means to all of us. It's incredible."

Is this the EPL title decider?

Judgment Sunday For Man City and Arsenal As Top Clubs Collide

Manchester: The Premier League title could well be on the line when leaders Arsenal visit second-place Manchester City on Sunday. In fact, that's exactly how City manager Pep Guardiola sees it.

"If we lose, it's over," Guardiola said Friday. "They are so strong in all departments. Duals, physicality. If you allow them to make a good process by not being aggressive they make a good build-up."

Both teams can still control their own destiny with a victory, given that City (19-5-7, 64 points) have one more match remaining than the Gunners (21-4-7, 70 points). But a loss would leave Guardiola's men with nine points to make up in six matches.

Yet the mood around the first-place North London club has been one of nerves over the last month, during which a combination of other competitions and the March international window has limited both clubs to only one league game. Those came last weekend, when Arsenal suffered a stunning 2-1 home defeat to Bournemouth the day before City earned a 3-0 win at Chelsea.

Arsenal head to Etihad in their worst run of form this season, having suffered three defeats in their last four matches in all competitions. REUTERS

Reuters

MASTER VS APPRENTICE: Guardiola's City have won 9 of the 16 clashes against Arteta's Arsenal

EPL: THE RACE IS ON

Team	P	GD	Pts
Arsenal	32	+38	70
Man City	31	+35	64

TITLE RUN-IN | The remaining fixtures and their opponents' position in the league

Arsenal		Man City	
Opponents	Pos	Opponents	Pos
Man City (a)	2nd	Arsenal (h)	1st
Newcastle (h)	14th	Burnley (a)	19th
Fulham (h)	12th	Everton (a)	8th
West Ham (a)	17th	Brentford (h)	7th
Burnley (h)	19th	Bournemouth (a)	11th
C Palace (a)	13th	Aston Villa (h)	4th
-	-	C Palace (h)	13th
Average	12th		9th

> **I don't know how Pep and Man City are feeling, but I feel very privileged to have earned the right to be in this position to play such a big and great game."** —Arteta

> **I know Mikel (Arteta). They are going to adjust something and we have to prepare to do it. In the end, it is more simple. It is how your players individually win the me-against-you."** —Guardiola

Bayern need a point to win Bundesliga, Eta makes history

Berlin: Bayern Munich moved closer to the Bundesliga title after Borussia Dortmund fell to a 2-1 loss at Hoffenheim on Saturday, while pioneering Union Berlin coach Marie-Louise Eta lost on her debut in the dugout. Second-placed Dortmund's defeat leaves Bayern, who host Stuttgart on Sunday, 12 points clear with a game in hand. The defending champions need just a point to claim their 35th German title. AFP

Listless India Wom lose to SA in opener

Durban: South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt punished a wayward Indian bowling attack to script a clinical six-wicket win in the Women's T20 series opener here on Friday. With the bat too, India never got the momentum they needed and ended up with 157 for seven.

The visitors were indisciplined with the ball, conceding 14 runs in wides as South Africa coasted to the target in 19.1 overs. Wolvaardt (51 off 39 balls) laid the platform for a convincing win.

Brief scores: India 157/7 (H Kaur 47*; J Rodrigues 36, A Khaka 3-16) **lost to SA** 158/4 in 19.1 overs (L Wolvaardt 51, Dercksen 44*; Shreyanka 2-26)

7 South Africa Women's triumph by 6 wickets is their seventh in 20 matches vs India Women (lost 10 and no-result 3).

Deepika, Aarav clinch gold

Daniyal.Abdulla@timesofindia.com

ARCHERY

New Delhi: Deepika Kumari once again showed why she remains India's most dependable name in archery, clinching gold at the National Ranking Tournament in New Delhi with a performance built on control and confidence.

Up against Ankita Bhakat in the senior women's recurve final, Deepika kept things tight from the very first end. She closed out the match 7-1 to take the top spot, while Ankita finished with silver after an impressive campaign.

Deepika spoke about being in a good space with her preparation and welcomed the level of competition at the event. She believed that the strong domestic contests helped sharpen her game, especially with bigger challenges ahead.

The senior men's final saw Aarav Punia rise to the occasion, defeating Sukhchain Singh 7-3. Aarav looked steady throughout, handling the pressure better in crucial moments to secure the gold.

With major international events such as the Asian Games and key qualification tournaments approaching, this outing proved valuable for Deepika and Aarav.

'Start strong and finish stronger'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Syed Asif

ALL SMILES: Hockey ace Jarmanpreet Singh (third from right), TCS' Sunil Deshpande (fourth from left) along with other dignitaries at the TCS World 10K event in Bengaluru on Saturday

Bengaluru: India international Jarmanpreet Singh, who was part of the bronze-medal winning team at the Paris Olympics, praised the running revolution unfolding at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru. The hockey player said it's all about the finish on the race day on April 26.

"I want to congratulate all the thousands of runners (more than 35,000 are expected to turn up) for taking part in the race. It doesn't matter whether you win or lose. It's about how you finish. At the end of the day, you should be satisfied that you finished the job well," said the seasoned campaigner, who put India's gritty win against England in the quarterfinals at the Olympics as his most memorable match. As we say in hockey: "Start strong and finish stronger," was his message to all the runners.

WORLD 10K

"I see a strong connection between hockey and running. It's all about pacing yourself, staying consistent, and finishing strong. Even though I haven't run a 10K yet, the core remains the same, preparation, discipline, and mental strength. The way you train, the same way you will perform on the match day. I eat healthy food as the diet is very important for a sportsperson. And yes, once in a while I also have the cheat meal to balance the diet and to address the cravings," the lanky player added.

He also unveiled the exclusive Asics finisher tee. The top 1,500 Open 10K finishers in both the men's and women's categories will be awarded the commemorative tee.

With former world champion and Olympic medallist Blanka Vlasic, the International Event Ambassador, set to join the flag-off on Cubbon Road next Sunday, the countdown has started for all the pro and amateur runners, who for the first time had to produce a timing certificate to confirm their entry.

"Every edition reflects Bengaluru's collective drive to live healthier, aim higher, and support one another — not just on race day, but well beyond the finish line. We look forward to an inspiring day on the streets of Bengaluru and wish every participant a joyful, memorable run," said Sunil Deshpande, Regional Head, Tata Consultancy Services, Bengaluru.

Procam International Joint MD Vivek Singh said the kind of energy and socio-economic value the event brings to the city is unparalleled. "The TCS World 10K Bengaluru has grown into far more than just a race, it is a true running revolution that champions health, fitness, and social harmony. This year, the Open 10K registrations closed in just six days, truly reflecting the growth of the running revolution. We will see over 9,000 participants travelling from outside Bengaluru, underlining the event's allure," he said.

Nemil's goal floors Mumbai

Marcus.Mergulhao@timesofindia.com

Margao: There's a reason why FC Goa have resisted the temptation to sell or loan Muhammed Nemil, despite limited appearances and lack of goals. The attacking midfielder – playing as forward this season due to absence of foreigners in the position – is capable of something special. He's done it during training, pre-season friendlies, and now, finally, in the Indian Super League.

It was the third minute of first half added time, and just when everyone were waiting for the referee to whistle for half time, Nemil received the ball from Raynier Fernandes at some distance away from goal.

In such cases, players instinctively look for someone ahead and make a pass. Nemil, though, had different ideas: he controlled the ball with his right, and before anyone realised what happened, his powerful left-footer crashed into the top corner. The goal was Goa's second of the night, enough to dethrone Mumbai City 2-0 after Sahil Tavora opened the account – his first of the season – at the Nehru Stadium in Fatorda on Saturday.

Results: Kerala Blasters FC 2 (Nihal Sudeesh 12, Vibin Mohanan 36) bt Jamshedpur FC 0. FC Goa 2 (Sahil Tavora 29, Mohd Nemil 45 +3) bt Mumbai City FC 0.

Today's match: NorthEast United FC vs Mohun Bagan Super Giant (7.30 pm).

Mane triumphs

Udayan Mane clinched his maiden AM Green IGPL Trophy, storming to a seven-shot victory over the much-decorated Gaganjeet Bhullar at the AM Green IGPL Invitational South Africa in Johannesburg on Saturday. Mane card-

GOLF

ed a final-round 67 to seal a dominant win. The triumph follows his third-place finish at the IGPL Mauritius last week, underlining a strong return to form for Mane in recent weeks. Bhullar was a distant second at 13-under, while Manav Shah totalled 12-under in third place. PTI

Nihal, Sneha named in India relay squad

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nihal Joel William and Sneha

Karnataka athletes Nihal Joel William and Sneha were named in the India squad on Saturday that will compete at next month's World Athletics Relays in Gaborone, Botswana.

The Indian men's 4x400m relay team set an Asian and national record of 2:59.05s at the 2023 Budapest World Athletics Championships in Hungary. The national team also advanced to the medal round. During the one-day first International Invitational Relay Competition and third National Open Relay Competition held earlier in March in Chandigarh, the quartet of Manu TS, Amoj Jacob, Dharmveer Choudhary and Rajesh Ramesh posted a time of 3:01.43s and improved the Indian team's global ranking to 16 in the men's 4x400m relay.

The India squad: Men: Rajesh Ramesh, Manu TS, Amoj Jacob, Dharamveer Choudhary, Theerthesh Shetty, Nihal Joel William, Vishal TK (4x400m men's relay and 4x400m mixed relay). Pranav Gaurav, Gurindervir Singh, Animesh Kujur, Ragul Kumar Ganesh Kumar, Harsh Satosh Raut, Tamilarasu S (4x100m men's relay and 4x100m mixed relay). **Women:** Rashdeep Kaur, Kumari Saloni Nagar, Ansa Babu (all 4x400m mixed relay). Tamanna, Sudeshna Hanmant Shivankar, Nithya Gandhe, Sneha SS, Srabani Nanda (4x100m women's relay and 4x100m mixed relay).

Rublev to take on Fils in final

AFP

ALL SET: Andrey Rublev

Frenchman Arthur Fils overcame in-form teenager Rafael Jodar 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 on Saturday to set up a Barcelona Open final with resurgent Russian Andrey Rublev. Rublev also came from a set down to beat Serbia's Hamad Medjedovic 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in their semifinal earlier on Saturday.

TENNIS

COBOLLI VS SHELTON

Flavio Cobolli ended top seed Alexander Zverev's Munich Open title defence on Saturday as the Italian breezed past the world number three in straight sets to book his place in the final against Ben Shelton. Fourth seed Cobolli downed the home favourite 6-3, 6-3 in just under 70 minutes in their semifinal meeting. Shelton beat qualifier Alex Molcan 6-3, 6-4.

MUCHOVA IN TITLE DECIDER

Karolina Muchova edged Elina Svitolina 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 on Saturday to book her spot in the final of Stuttgart Open. The world number 12 will play the first ever 500-level final of her career against top seed Elena Rybakina. Australian Open champion Rybakina surged to a 7-5, 6-1 win over Mirra Andreeva. AGENCIES

Karna-Kumar duo tops in first leg

Karna Kadur and co-driver Kumar Ramaswamy came up with a drive to remember, opening a 22-second lead over legendary Gaurav Gill (Srikanth GM) as they topped the South India Rally first leg in Chennai on Saturday.

Bengaluru pair of Ritesh Guttedar and co-driver Suraj M head the INRC 2 category ahead of Dehradun's Anushriya Gulati (co-driver Karan Aukta). Bengalureans dominated the INRC 3 class also, with the Arvind Dheerendra-Shahid Salman pair leading from Abhishek Gowda (co-driver Mahesh Nandi). Chikkamagaluru's Tarushi Vikram continued her fine run by topping both Ladies and Junior INRC categories, partnering Athreya Kousgi. **Leg-1 (winners only): APRC:** 1. Karna Kadur / Kumar Ramaswamy (1hr, 1min, 9.9s); **INRC 2:** 1. Ritesh Guttedar/Suraj M (1:4:21.1s); **INRC 3:** Arvind Dheerendra / Shahid Salman (1:3:52.3); **INRC 3T:** Vishak Balachandran/ Chiranth Jain (1:3:39.9); **Ladies:** Tarushi Vikram/ Athreya Kousgi (1:5:17); **Junior INRC:** Tarushi Vikram/ Athreya Kousgi (1:5:17). TNN

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Estd. 1838 | VOL. 35 NO. 16 | BENGALURU

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Nathalie Baye, French cinema stalwart and 4-time winner of Cesar Award who starred in Spielberg's 'Catch Me if You Can', dies at 77

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SUNDAY

APRIL 19, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 48 | INCLUDING BANGALORE TIMES

Education minister Dharmendra
Pradhan tells TOI it's important to guide kids on usage of digital devices P 15

Estd.1838 | VOL. 35 NO. 16 | BENGALURU

PM slams oppn, apologises to women for bill's defeat

'Cong & Its Allies Committed Female Foeticide'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a fiery attack on opposition for defeating the proposed amendments to women's reservation law, as he accused them of committing "bhrun hatya" (foeticide) in Parliament by scuttling his govt's "honest attempts" for rollout of 33% quota for women by 2029 and increase in the Lok Sabha seats of every state by 50%.

"Women will never forgive you for this sin," he said in an address to the nation and affirmed that it is only a matter of time before women are given their rightful share in Lok Sabha and state assemblies. "I assure every woman that we will remove each obstacle that comes in the way of women's reservation," he said.

The PM began his impassioned 30-minute speech by apologising to women for his govt's inability to get the bill to amend women's reservation law passed despite utmost efforts.

Asserting that those who defeated the bill thwarted the rise of women and smothered their aspirations, Modi said, "I apologise to my mothers and sisters."

Soon, he switched gears to slam opposition, especially Congress, Trinamool Congress, SP and DMK; the four parties he named for spreading lies to mislead people over the proposed amendments' intent. They ended up unmasking themselves before the country, he said.

FULL COVERAGE
PAGES 4, 18, 19

"Cong and its allies are continuously lying over delimitation... **Cong has learned politics of divide & rule from the British** as its heritage... It objects to everything necessary for development in 21st century

We **may not have got 66% votes, but have blessings of 100% women...** We'll continue the fight — PM Modi

"Modiji mentioned Cong 59 times and women barely a few times. That tells the country everything about his priorities —Cong chief M Kharge

▶'Blessings of women', P 19

Cong: PM turned official address into political speech

Hitting back at PM Narendra Modi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said a "desperate and frustrated PM, with nothing meaningful to show for the past 12 years, turned an official address to the nation into a political speech full of mudslinging and outright lies".

"The model code of conduct is in place and it was very clear how PM Modi misused official machinery to attack his opponents. This is a travesty of democracy and the Constitution of India," Kharge said in a post on X.

Congress termed Modi's speech "a distress address rather than a national address", claiming he was "unhinged" after the defeat of the bill. TNN

▶'Should've apologised', P 19

Fake IAS officer caught running C'magaluru hosp

City police have arrested a man for allegedly posing as an IAS officer and a National Health Mission chief.

Mithun had been running Chikkamagaluru district hospital for 3 months. He was busted when a medical shop owner filed a plaint on being duped of ₹41L with a contract promise. P 3

Karnataka govt employees await March salary amid fund concerns

ManuAiyappa.Kanathanda
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Salary payments for March to state govt employees have been delayed, leaving several staff members unpaid even as of April 18. The delay has raised concerns among employees many of whom are worried about school fee payment and other expenses, and sparked questions about fund availability.

PAYMENTS HIT BY POLL GUARANTEE?

- March salaries delayed **across several state govt departments as of April 18**
- Payments usually **made by first week of April**
- **Technical glitches and financial constraints cited as cause** for payment delay
- Allegations emerge that **₹6,000 crore was diverted to Gruhalakshmi scheme**

Employees in key departments such as revenue, education, police, animal husbandry, and information and public relations, who usually receive their salaries within the first few days of the month, are among those affected.

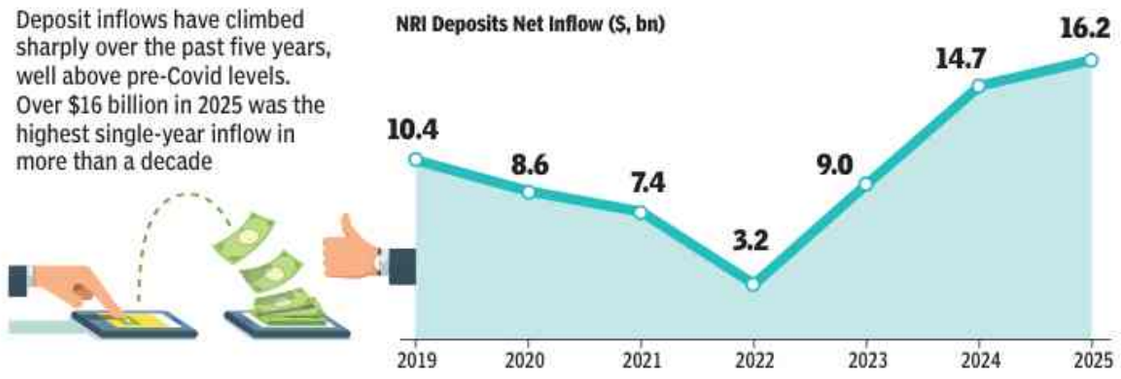
▶Efforts on to get funds, P 4

WEAK RUPEE, STRONG NRI DEPOSITS

A softer rupee is making remittances worth more in India. But even foreign-currency deposits are rising, showing NRIs are choosing Indian banks for more than just the exchange rate. **Richa Gandhi** explains

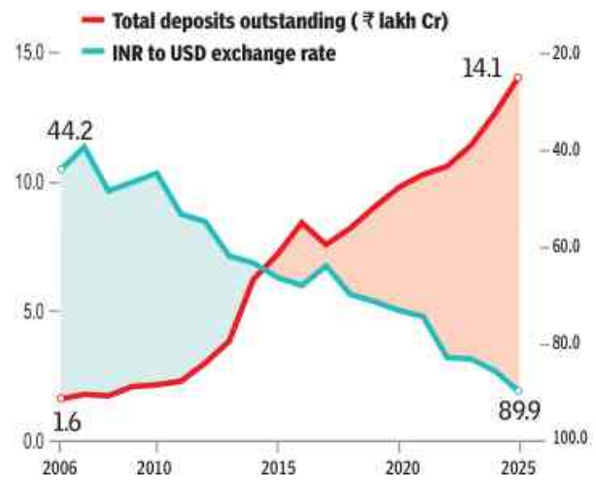
NRI money into Indian banks at 11-year high

Deposit inflows have climbed sharply over the past five years, well above pre-Covid levels. Over $16 billion in 2025 was the highest single-year inflow in more than a decade



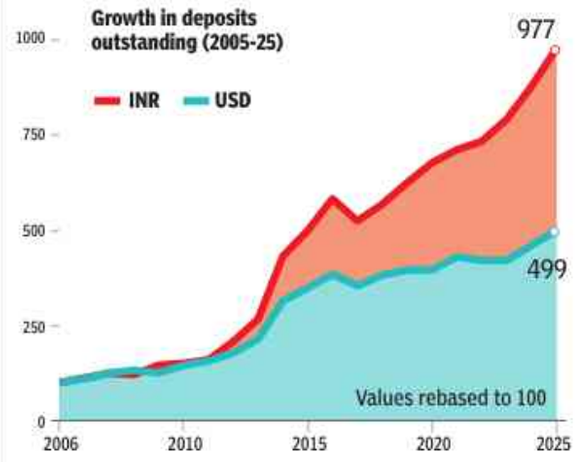
Weaker rupee means the same remittance buys more in India

For NRIs spending or saving in India, a weak rupee acts like a bonus: the same foreign income turns into more rupees. That can lift deposits even if the amount sent in dollars has not risen as much



Strip out the currency effect, and rise is smaller

Measured in rupees, NRI deposits have surged. Convert them into dollars, and the rise is smaller because part of the jump is simply rupee losing value. But the dollar value has grown too, which means this is not just an exchange-rate illusion: fresh money has continued to come in



TYPES OF NRI DEPOSITS

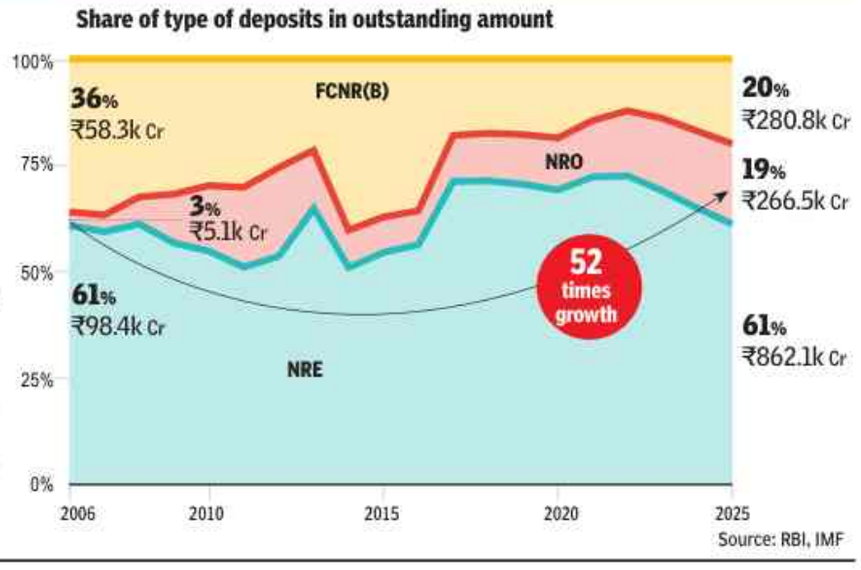
NRE (Non-Resident External) | Rupee deposits funded from overseas earnings. Fully repatriable and tax-free in India. Best for sending money home, building rupee savings for future use in India, or keeping funds ready for family support, property expenses or an eventual return

NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary) | Rupee account for income earned in India, such as rent, dividends, pension or interest. Useful for managing local expenses and receiving India-linked income. Repatriation is more restricted, and interest is taxable in India

FCNR(B) (Foreign Currency Non-Resident – Banks) | Fixed deposits held in foreign currency, not rupees. Fully repatriable and tax-free in India. Best for NRIs who want to keep savings in dollars or other foreign currencies, earn interest, and avoid taking rupee depreciation risk during the deposit term

Not just remittances, India income is also feeding these accounts

The current rise is being driven more by rupee deposits — especially NRE and NRO — than by one-off policy incentives of the past (swap option of 2013-16). This points to regular remittances, but also to money earned in India, such as rent, dividends, interest, pensions or sale proceeds, being parked in NRI accounts



Source: RBI, IMF

What you should know about new form for claiming zero TDS

Nishant Khemani

Till now, taxpayers seeking relief from tax deducted at source (TDS) on specified incomes such as bank interest and dividends had to file Form 15G or 15H. Form 15G was meant for individuals below 60 years of age, while Form 15H catered to senior citizens (60 years and above). Both forms served the same purpose: a self-declaration stating that the taxpayer's total income was below the taxable threshold and, hence, no TDS should be deducted.

From this financial year, the govt has replaced the Forms 15G and 15H with a consolidated Form 121. While any change in tax procedures tends to cause initial confusion, this move is clearly aimed at simplification and ease of filing.

Form 121 removes the age-based distinction. Whether you are 35 or 75, the same form will now apply. This consolidation brings all taxpayers under a single, uniform compliance framework. This reduces paperwork, standardises the process, and makes it easier for institutions to manage and verify declarations. For taxpayers, it eliminates the need to determine eligibility based on age, which was a frequent source of minor errors.

One of the key improvements in Form 121 is the use of pre-filled data. Much of the basic information, such as name, PAN, and other profile details, is automatically populated from the individual's income tax records. This reduces manual entry, lowers the risk of mistakes, and speeds up the filing process.

For taxpayers who are already accustomed to online filing and pre-filled returns, this will feel like a natural extension. Even those less comfortable with digital systems may find the new form easier, as it requires fewer inputs and less cross-checking.

WHAT CHANGES FOR TAXPAYERS

	Forms 15G/15H	Form 121
Structure	Two separate forms	One single form
Age eligibilty	15G: Below 60; 15H: 60+	No age distinction
Purpose	Avoid TDS if income below taxable limit	Same purpose continues
Data filling	More manual inputs	Basic details pre-filled
Tax position	No TDS upfront, but tax payable if income exceeds limit	Same
Submission	Separate form for each bank/investment	Same

Who Should File Form 121?

The underlying principle remains unchanged. Form 121 can be submitted by individuals whose estimated total income for the financial year is below the taxable limit and who wish to avoid TDS on certain incomes, including interest from fixed deposits, recurring deposits, or dividend income. It is important to remember that this is only a declaration. If the final income exceeds the exemption limit, the taxpayer remains liable to pay the due tax. Filing Form 121 does not grant immunity from tax; it merely prevents upfront deduction.

It is important to note that, like Form 15G and 15H, the new Form 121 has to be filed for all investments separately. For instance, if you have deposits in three different banks, you need to file Form 121 with each of the three banks.

As with any procedural change, there may be some initial uncertainty. Taxpayers familiar with Forms 15G and 15H will need to adjust to the new format and nomenclature. Financial institutions, too, may take some time to update their systems and guide customers.

However, there are several long-term benefits for taxpayers. A unified, pre-filled, and simpler form reduces compliance friction and aligns with the broader push towards digitisation and ease of doing taxes. In that sense, Form 121 is less about introducing something new and more about making an existing process smoother, cleaner, and more user-friendly.

The writer is a chartered accountant and MD, Saturn Consulting Group